

“Waking the Divine” Hebrews 1:2-3

Context: Our previous reflection considered Jesus Christ as the ultimate revelation in God’s progressive disclosure of His nature, salvific plan, and will. As such, Jesus is the initiator and perfecter of God’s communication to humanity. This serves as the main focus of Hebrews’ exhortation to remain faithful and avoid apostasy. The book calls the readers to cast off any weight or entangling sin and to fix our eyes upon Jesus, who initiated our faith. Jesus empowers us to run the race until the day of our souls’ perfected transformation in eternity (cf. Hebrews 12:1-3). The first four chapters of the book call the readers to transcend the shadow of Moses as lawgiver, the splendor of the Temple, and the Old Testament rituals. We are called to remain faithful to Jesus’ greater covenant. In doing so, we will be spared from the apostasy to which ritualistic living leads.

Life Principle: The joy in your release from guilt is just a taste of the joy you will feast on forever (cf. Hebrews 11:16).

1. Jesus Christ as God – Hebrews 1:2b-3b

Jesus being described as God’s heir sets up the discussion of His Divine nature. The focus is on the nature of His existence. He is the agent of “the all” that is created. He exists as a totally other order, as the only non-contingent Being. He in His very essence reflects the Divine infinite and intense capacity to act in every way and be acted upon in every way that characterizes the very Being of God. That is ‘what’ He is.

2. Jesus Christ as expiation – Hebrews 1:3c

The sixth of a seven-fold claim for Jesus’ Divinity is His omnipotent sinless nature which is characterized by the expiation of our sins. He initiated our cleansing by dying as a sinless sacrifice, paying the debt we owe to a righteous God. He also washed us through the sending of His Spirit. Finally, He will perfect us at the time of our glorification at His second coming.

For Further Study:

- The author declares that Jesus Christ’s very nature is Divine and then clearly calls Him God (Hebrews 1:3, 8). Our doctrinal statement professes Jesus as God (see our **doctrinal statement ‘On Jesus Christ’** under **what we believe**, footnote 5 at <http://www.gracepointfellowship.org/files/DocStmnt.pdf>). How did Jesus exhibit His Divine infinite and intense capacity to act and be acted upon in a way that characterizes the very Being of God (cf. Matthew 17:2; Exodus 34:6; Luke 23:34; Luke 5:20-24; John 11:43)? List ways that Jesus exhibited a capacity to act and be acted upon in a way that was characteristically human (i.e. John 11:35-36). How did Jesus’ divine nature affect the way He acted in His human nature (cf. Hebrews 4:15)? What does the interaction between Jesus’ Divine and human nature have to do with your personal salvation (cf. 2 Peter 1:2-9; 2 Corinthians 3:18)?

- As a **theological study method**, differentiate *expiation* from *propitiation* using *Theopedia* <http://www.theopedia.com/Propitiation>. How did Jesus *initiate* our cleansing/expiation from sin (cf. Romans 5:6-15; Titus 3:4-7)? How does Jesus continue to cleanse us (cf. Ephesians 1:17-20; 1 Peter 1:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)? How will Jesus *perfect* our cleansing (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:42-53)? List the blessings of joy you find in His favor/propitiation now (i.e. guilt-free participation in communion (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:28 with 1 John 1:9).

Transformation exercise:

Apply the joy set before you in Hebrews 12:2 by listing the blessings of joy you find in God’s favor/propitiation now (i.e. guilt-free participation in communion - cf. 1 Corinthians 11:28; 1 John 1:9).