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Today I want to talk about what our response should be to all that we have learned about Jesus in the book thus far. As we have studied this book we have discovered a number of great truths about the work of Jesus. Our overall theme has been:

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS and we have learned this as we have worked our way through the book:

1. KNOWING GOD IS POSSIBLE
2. JESUS IS LORD IN THE HEAVENLIES
3. JESUS IS SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS
4. JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TRULY SAY 'I AM THE GREATEST'
5. TEN REASONS WHY WE ONLY NEED JESUS TO ENCOUNTER GOD
6. WHY GOD'S PROMISES ALWAYS COME TRUE IN JESUS
7. WHY JESUS IS THE ONLY PRIEST YOU WILL EVER NEED
8. THE SUPERIORITY OF THE NEW COVENANT INTRODUCED BY JESUS
9. THE POWER IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS
10. WHY JESUS IS THE ONLY ADVOCATE YOU WILL EVER NEED
11. ONLY JESUS CAN MAKE YOU HOLY

SO, WHAT SHOULD THE BELIEVERS RESPONSE BE TO ALL THAT WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT JESUS

Part of the message is about meeting with God collectively and it is ironical that we cannot meet collectively in these days, because of the third wave of Covid sweeping over South Africa.

A few months back a Pastor in America was arrested for defying the laws of the land about gathering during this time of Covid. While I admire his passionate defiance and stand for Religious Liberty, I am appalled at his lack of common sense. Covid is a virus that is air born and the greatest spreader situations are people gathering in closed rooms, who are too close to each other.

THE BELIEVERS RESPONSE TO THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS

BELIEVERS SHOULD RESPOND TO THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS BY:

1. **BOLDLY ENTERING HEAVENS MOST HOLY PLACE.**

v19 And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. v20 This is the new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up for us through the sacred curtain, by means of his death for us. v21 And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's people, v22 let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him. For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

So much religion is driven by fear. The gods of other religions are constantly needing to be appeased. Gifts and offerings need to be brought to please the gods, and they may respond by sending the followers some blessing.

Because of what Jesus has done for us, the writer of the Book of Hebrews reminds us of the invitation that God in Christ has extended to all mankind. All through the teaching of Jesus while he was on earth, we constantly hear the invitation to come:

Matt 9:13 Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to be merciful; I don't want your sacrifices.' **For I have come to call sinners**, not those who think they are already good enough."

Matt 11:28 Then Jesus said, "**Come to me, all of you who are weary** and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Matt 19:14 But Jesus said, "**Let the children come to me**. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."

Luke 19:10 And **I, the Son of Man, have come to seek and save** those like him who are lost."

John 6:37 However, **those the Father has given me will come to me**, and I will never reject them.

John 7:37 On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "**If you are thirsty, come to me!**

John 10:3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and **the sheep hear his voice and come to him**. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

John 12:47 If anyone hears me and doesn't obey me, I am not his judge – for **I have come to save the world and not to judge it**.

1.1 **WE HAVE BOLDNESS TO ENTER SALVATION**

v19 And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. v20 This is the new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up for us through the sacred curtain, by means of his death for us.

Verse 20 talks about a “new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up”.

*John 3:3-6 Jesus replied, "I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God." v4 "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" v5 Jesus replied, "The truth is, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. v6 Humans can reproduce only human life, **but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven.***

*Luke 20:36 And they will never die again. In these respects they are like angels. They are children of God **raised up to new life.***
*Romans 6:8 And since we died with Christ, **we know we will also share his new life.***

*1 Peter 1:23 **For you have been born again.** Your new life did not come from your earthly parents because the life they gave you will end in death. **But this new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.***

1.2 **WE HAVE BOLDNESS TO ENTER THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

v21 And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's people, v22 let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him. For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

All through the bible, when people came into the presence of God they: Fell down before God, Had a deep sense of their sinfulness, and acknowledged the HOLINESS of God.

However, because we have a GREAT HIGH PRIEST in Christ we can enter the Presence of God, with no fear and with no guilt.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save everyone who comes to God through him. He lives forever to plead with God on their behalf.

*Romans 8:34 **Who then will condemn us?** Will Christ Jesus? No, for he is the one who died for us and was raised to life for us and is sitting at the place of highest honour next to God, pleading for us.*

1.3 **WE HAVE BOLDNESS TO LIVE VICTORIOUSLY**

v22 ... For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

Listen to these verses:.

*Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, let us argue this out," says the LORD. **"No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you as white as wool.***

*1 John 1:7 But if we are living in the light of God's presence, just as Christ is, then we have fellowship with each other, **and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin.***

Because of what Jesus has done for us, Paul encourages us in *Romans 12:1-2* Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual[1] act of worship. v2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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BELIEVERS SHOULD RESPOND TO THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS BY:

2. **BOLDLY BELIEVE GOD TO KEEP HIS PROMISE.**

v23 Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

There are a number of reasons why we can trust God

Seven Reasons you can Trust God BY KAYLENE YODER

2.1. **God has a record of keeping His word.**

The Lord cannot lie. “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man that He should change His mind.” Numbers 23:19

What He says He will do. What He says can already be considered done. Solomon declared that the Lord is trustworthy all those years ago, when He praised the Lord in the midst of the Israelites:

Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel just as He promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises He gave through His servant Moses.” 1 Kings 8:56

God has a record and it’s a good one!

2.2. **God’s nature is faithfulness.**

One of the fruits, or characteristics, of His Spirit is faithfulness.

Because His very nature is faithfulness, He can only prove Himself faithful. He will not let anything people can do, or any circumstance you are facing, come in the way of proving Himself faithful.

Even “if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for He cannot deny himself.” 2 Timothy 2:13

2.3. **He will never leave us or forget us.**

He made us, put His breath in us and He cannot forget us. His word promises that even though a mother might forget the child she bore, He will not be able to forget us.

See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands, He says. Isaiah 49:15-16

2.4. **God knows your needs better than you do, and before you do.**

The maker of your soul is familiar with all your ways, Psalm 139:3 says. So much so that He knows the number of hairs on your head. (Luke 12:7) Psalm twenty-three says that the Lord is our shepherd, our feeder. And as such we may contend that we shall not be in want of any good thing that is truly needed for life and godliness.

2.5. **God is not surprised or baffled at your situation.**

There is nothing new under the sun. God has seen it all, heard it all, knows it all.

What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again. Ecclesiastes 1:9

Because He can’t be shaken by anything, we can go to Him with all our cares and concerns. He hems us in behind and before and places His hand over us. (Psalm 139:5) Nothing about our situation will shock the socks off God. In that knowledge we can trust Him to be our rock, our firm unwavering foundation

2.6. Nothing is too hard for God.

*Ah, sovereign Lord, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. **Nothing is too hard for You.** Jeremiah 32:17*

Period. Did you see that? It's not a question mark or an exclamation point. It's a period; fact.

Nothing. Is too hard for God.

2.7. He promises consistency.

The Lord will never change. He has been the same through all the ages; He will not change His mind.

*He is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)
He gives us every good and perfect gift, according to our needs,
and He does not change like the shifting shadows (James 1:17).*

He can't change. It would go against His very nature.

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BELIEVERS SHOULD RESPOND TO THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS BY:

3. BOLDLY LIVE ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN.

v24 Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. v25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.

3.1 WE MUST LEARN TO LOVE

v24 Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love.

When Jesus was asked what the most important commandment was he said two things about love:

Matthew 22:37-40 v37 Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' v38 This is the first and greatest commandment. v39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

At the end of the message of Jesus he said.

v40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

3.2 WE MUST LEARN TO SERVE

*v24 Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love **and good deeds.***

After James and John asked to sit on either side of Jesus in heaven we read:

*Mark 10:42-45 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. v43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, v44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. v45 **For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**"*

Everybody loves the idea of servanthood, yet few actually serve.

3.3 **WE MUST LEARN TO WORSHIP**

v25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.

People have so many reasons why they don't go to church. While I know these days are exceptional circumstances, we should be careful not to use even this Pandemic to avoid going to church.

One pastor who had been an avid sports fan all his life, sarcastically once said, "I've had it! I quit this sports business once and for all. You can't get me near one of those places again. Want to know why..."

- Every time I went, they asked me for money.
- The people with whom I had to sit didn't seem very friendly.
- The seats were too hard and not at all comfortable.
- I went to many games, but the coach never came to call on me.
- The referee made a decision with which I could not agree.
- I suspected that I was sitting with some hypocrites -- they came to see their friends and what others were wearing rather than to see the game.
- Some games went into extra time, and I was late getting home.
- The band played some numbers that I had never heard before.
- It seems that the games are scheduled when I want to do other things.
- I was taken to too many games by my parents when I was growing up.
- I don't want to take my children to any games, because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.

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