

I. Introduction

A. We continue with the series we started last week from Hebrews— *We See Jesus*

1. In Hebrews, Christian life is portrayed as journey to a distant destination (**11:8,10**)
 - a. His story is the also the story of our lives; we are pilgrims to the city of God
 - b. We don't know where we are going exactly or how close we are to being there
 - c. We just put one foot in front of the other as we look for that city with foundations
2. Problem with long trips is that they are boring and the problems we face along way
 - a. An uncle once made a trip from Little Rock to Formosa Arkansas in old Model T
 - 1) That's 86 miles; today it takes hour and 15 minutes (*2 hours on old back roads*)
 - 2) But he had 24 flat tires that had to be patched! Distracts from the destination!
 - b. Long trips can be counter-productive. Take family vacations to grow closer, right?
 - 1) How does that often work out? Especially those cross-country road trips?
 - 2) How many times can you hear "*are we there yet*" before that journey get old?
 - 3) Sometimes the family is *barely speaking* after you get to where you're going!
3. When you find yourself on a long trip, it tends to be boring, monotonous and difficult

B. And there you have the basic problem of the first reader of book Hebrews—and us today

1. They were discouraged by their faith trip— "*feeble arms and weak knees*" (**12:12**)
 - a. They had started drifting spiritually (**Heb 2:1**); the image of ship drifting on tide.
 - b. They were tired, discouraged and bored; they neglected their salvation (**Heb 2:3**).
2. Apostasy rarely comes in a sudden repudiation of faith; it is always a gradual process.
 - a. We don't just wake up one day and decide, "*You know, I don't believe I believe*"
 - b. We gradually, progressively find ourselves "*slip-sliding away*" (as old song says)
 - c. Here's something— *how do know you aren't drifting away and neglecting now?*
3. Big source of discouragement and drifting is the difference between faith and sight
 - a. There is a chasm between the truth our faith claims and we see in our world
 - 1) We worship the God who reigns over all; we see a world that is out of control.
 - 2) We bow before a God who is Good; we live in a world that is not good at all
 - 3) We praise a God of justice and mercy; we live in a world that has little of either
 - b. How can we walk by faith in a world that drains that faith so completely at times?
4. The way to do that is to keep our eyes focuses eyes on Jesus— makes that point again

II. When and Sight Collide

- A. Last week, he began with a praise song on the majesty and the power of the Christ
1. In **Hebrews 2**, the song will shift keys—writer focuses on the humanity of Christ.
 - a. Jesus understands our discouragement, sickness, suffering, and even death
 - b. Not only did Christ make the world, he lived in it as One breakable and broken
 2. Writer also uses a song to stress that point— actually uses a quotation from **Psalm 8**
- B. Our reading come from psalm (**Read: Hebrews 2:5-8a**, NIV84). Two ways to read this—
1. **First**, it is to see the writer here using the Psalm to point us directly to Christ
 - a. Jesus was lower than angels, like us. He was “*Son of Man*,” his title for himself.
 - b. Last thing he told the apostles before the ascension, “*All authority in heaven...*”
 - 1) Our problem is that the world around us doesn’t recognize his authority, does it
 - 2) Clearly points to difference in what we believe and what we see in our world
 2. **Second**, modern translations (like new NIV) tend keep this in OT context (**2:6b-8a**)
 - a. Here it is not the Messiah who has the glory, honor and dominion. It’s us, humans.
 - b. Doesn’t make sense? God originally have dominion over creation to us (**Gen 1:26**)
 - 1) In the original plan, our place was to rule with God; our sin disrupted things
 - 2) Now it’s back to the utter chaos things started with; we look to Christ to fix it
 - c. First option makes better sense, especially since **v. 5** begins with “*world to come*”
 - d. **Interesting Factoid:** Commentaries by ACU professors each take opposing views!
- C. Either way, point stays the same; faith doesn’t match what we see in world (**2:8b**, NIV84).
1. No matter how you read the Psalm, we’re left with dichotomy between faith & sight.
 - a. What we believe about the reign of Christ isn’t reflected in we see in the world!
 - b. What we proclaim about God in our worship isn’t seen in what we read in the paper
 - c. What we believe to be true about the reality of the world isn’t shared by the world
 - d. We walk by faith and not by sight... but our eyes have some things to say as well!
 2. If Christ reigns over all and sustains us all, why isn’t our world a better place for all?
 - a. Perhaps that is what led the Hebrew Christians to want to return to their old lives.
 - 1) The mundane matters of life did not reflect the proclamation of their faith
 - 2) Their world was not at all subject to Christ, so they were giving up on Christ!
 - b. They thought this would make their lives easier, and maybe it would... for awhile
 3. But they are looking at this think the wrong way— they need to be looking UP

III. We See Jesus: The Hero of Our Faith

- A. We don't see the world subject to Christ yet... but we see Jesus (**Heb 2:9**, NIV84)
- Here we come once again to the Hebrew writer's central point— *we see Jesus!*
 - Link “*all things being under his feet*” and “*last enemy to be destroyed*” (**1 Co 15:26**)
 - One day, “*every knee should bow...and every tongue should confess*” (**Phil 2:10-11**)
 - That day is not today! And it won't be any other day before the last day
 - We'll won't everyone accept the kingship of the Christ before the eschaton.
 - We see Jesus!* In a world of choas, we see the pioneer of our salvation (**Heb 2:10**)
 - In a world neither sees nor accepts Him, we must see Jesus. *Faith trumps sight*
 - To this tired, discouraged, jaded and cynical church—he says. “We see Jesus!”
 - We don't see a world in subjection to Him, but live as people with eyes on Christ
- B. “Pioneer” is the Greek *archegos*, used for one who opens territory so settlers can follow
- It is used in secular Greek one who founds a city or delivers a city (“*founder*,” ESV)
 - In the process of doing so, the founder gave his name to city (“*author*” in NIV84).
 - The NLT sums all of these ideas into one—“*perfect leader*” (*that a little hokey?*)
 - Maybe the best word that covers all of those is HERO (*which really sounds hokey!*)
 - As a pioneer of our salvation, Jesus opened up the way so that we can follow.
 - As founder of our salvation, Jesus won the ultimate victory comes to us as a gift.
 - As the author of salvation, Jesus gave His name to all of those who follow Him.
 - He is the ultimate hero that beat an unbeatable foe and rescued us from death
- C. The writer has one more point to make about our hero—solidarity with the saved (**2:11**)
- Jesus is one family with those he came to save; there is a second verse to the song
 - In **Hebrews 1**, Jesus is the exact representation of God and far above angels
 - In **Hebrews 2**, Jesus is exact representation of man and is lower than the angels.
 - We need to see that Jesus is just like God; we also need to see that Jesus is just like us
 - Why did He become like us? Why become subject to limitations... even that of death?
 - He came to destroy the power of the one who has power over death—Satan (**2:14**)
 - By defeating Satan at cross, he frees us from the power Satan held over us (**2:15**)
 - Just as Jesus was just like God, we also know that he was also just like us (**2:17**)
 - His power to help us is because he suffered and was tempted just like us (**2:18**)
 - He went through all of that to become the author and finisher—the hero of our faith

IV. Conclusion

- A. What can keep us going on this sometimes boring, always difficult journey of faith?
1. What we can't do is what some of the Hebrews we doing, and that is give up
 - a. We can't just settle in and settle down—one thing you must do on a trip is move
 - 1) On trips to Arkansas, we'd want Dad to stop at Stuckey's visit Ruby Falls
 - 2) We'd stopped for gas, "*Trading daylight for dark.*" If you on a trip... move!
 - b. We want to call our fellowship or tribe a "*movement,*" (*Restoration Movement*)
 - 1) The one thing you have to do to be part of a movement is you have to MOVE
 - 2) I asked a preacher to do a book review, "*I haven't read a book in 30 years*"
 2. If we have to keep moving forward in our Christian lives, how do we do that
 - a. We need to be reading more Christian books and have more challenging studies
 - b. We need to more uplifting retreats to recharge batteries (why Pepperdine is special)
 - c. And we need to focus more on engaging and exuberant worship of God
 3. But at the end of the day, these all have an end of the day! They lose their power!
 - a. Atchley once compared perfect worship experience to hitting the perfect golf shot
 - b. You hit the perfect "golf shot" (call it on TV), you feel it from your toes to nose.
 - 1) There's a click and you know, that's the one. You don't know what you did
 - 2) You can't explain or describe it; you know you want to do it again... SOON
 - 3) Problem: You don't know what or how you did it! You keep coming back.
- B. Problem with our quick fixes and short cuts when we're discouraged and bored
1. We need more exuberant praise, meaningful study, planned retreats & great books.
 - a. But these often don't work. And when they do wok, they don't last too long
 - b. So we have to do them all over again; when we do, they aren't as effective.
 - c. Many Christians try to sustain their faith running from one experience to the next
 2. What we need is fix our eyes on Jesus; what we need is come to know the Christ
 - a. What we need is to focus on the hero who blazed the trail and who gave us a name
 - b. We must walk as He walked, love as He loved, live as He lived, even died as He died
 - 1) If we do that, to be sure we'll become less and less like the world around us
 - 2) But it won matter so much; once you really see Jesus— He is all that matters
 - c. Listen to the text we ended with last week, this time from *The Message* (**Heb 12:2**)
- C. Only way to keep focused on our long journey of faith is to focus on Jesus. Consider Him