

The Superiority of Christ

Rev. 5

INTRODUCTION

- A. When Leonardo de Vinci was about to paint Christ in his painting of the Last Supper, he prepared with prayer and meditation.
 - 1. Yet, when he went to paint Christ, his hand trembled.
 - 2. His hand trembled, no doubt, because Jesus was superior to any subject he had ever painted.
- B. This morning, we want to look at the superiority of Christ.

JESUS IS SUPERIOR IN SCRIPTURE, vv. 1-5

- A. John saw a sealed scroll in God's hand, v. 1.
 - 1. A voice had told John that he would see what would shortly come to pass (4:1).
 - 2. This scroll contains those things which were to take place.
- B. The search for one who is worthy to open the scroll, vv. 2-3.
 - 1. An angel with a loud voice comes and asks, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"
 - a. The angel isn't looking for someone who is strong enough to loose the seals.
 - b. The angel is looking for someone who is worthy to do so.
 - 1) "Worthy" here carries a moral connotation.
 - 2) The angel is looking for someone who is morally upright enough to loose the seals.
 - 2. No one was found to open the scroll--
 - a. "In heaven"--among the angels;
 - b. "On earth"--living individuals;
 - c. "Under the earth"—dead individuals.
- C. Jesus is worthy to open the scroll, vv. 4-5.
 - 1. John wept much because no one could open the scroll--he would not know what God had in store for his saints, v. 4.
 - 2. One of the elders told John not to weep, v. 5.
 - a. The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has conquered.
 - b. He can open the scroll and its seven seals—he can reveal God's plan.
- D. Jesus is superior in revelation.
 - 1. Only Jesus is worthy enough to reveal what God wants.
 - 2. This book begins "the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 :1).
 - 3. The apostles made clear that they spoke the words of Jesus.
 - a. 1 Cor. 11:23.
 - b. 1 Thess. 4:15.
 - 4. We need to hear only the words of Jesus.
 - a. No man is worthy to reveal what God wants.
 - b. Man is only worthy to speak the "word of the Lord."
 - c. When one speaks, those who hear should see if he speaks the truth (Acts 17:11).

JESUS IS SUPERIOR IN SACRIFICE, vv. 6-10

- A. The Lamb took the scroll, vv. 6-7.
 - 1. When John looked to see the Lion, he saw a Lamb.
 - 2. The Lamb--
 - a. Looked as if he had been slain--Jesus is the sacrificial lamb who takes away sin (Jn. 1:29).

- b. Had seven horns—Jesus had complete power.
 - c. Had seven eyes representing the seven spirits of God--complete knowledge of the Holy Spirit is at Jesus' disposal.
 - d. Took the scroll.
- B. The Lamb received worship, vv. 8-10.
- 1. The four living creatures and the 24 elders fell down and worshipped Jesus.
 - 2. They sang a new song saying that--
 - a. Jesus was worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because
 - b. Jesus ransomed men for God.
 - 1) "Ransom" means "to buy."
 - 2) We have been purchased by the blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19).
 - c. Jesus made these men a kingdom and priests to God.
 - 1) As a kingdom, we are under God's rule.
 - 2) As priests, we offer praise to God.
 - a) Every Christian is a priest.
 - b) Every Christian can approach God himself.
 - d. Jesus allows these men to reign on earth.
 - 1) We reign on earth through our prayers.
 - 2) We change the world through prayer (Rev. 8:1-3).

JESUS IS SUPERIOR IN SONG, vv. 11-14

- A. Worship involves paying homage to one greater than oneself
- B. An innumerable host of angels came and praised Jesus, vv. 11-12.
- C. Every creature in heaven on earth and in the sea praised Jesus and the Father, v. 13.
- D. The four living creatures gave their approval to this worship scene, v. 14.
- E. The 24 elders fell down and worshipped, v. 14.
- F. Every created being is pictured as praising God and the Lamb.
 - 1. We should join this chorus and praise God.
 - a. This is why our attitude concerning worship is so important.
 - b. This is why our attitude in worship is so important.
 - 2. If we don't praise him now, we shall praise him later (Phil. 2:9-11).

CONCLUSION

- A. Jesus is superior.
- B. The angels depict Jesus as worthy to receive so much (vv. 11-12).
 - 1. He is also worthy to receive your life.
 - 2. Won't you give him your life?