

What is something about your life that makes you happy and gives you a sense of honor? It could be one of your skills, a job, expertise in a certain area, a good sense of humor, or your family. We usually have at least one thing like this that shows value in our life, which we hold on to when we feel belittled or downhearted. This valuable thing might show up when you feel like someone is making fun of you, and you retort, “Oh yeah! Well, at least I am a better athlete!” Or, if things are not going well, you may comfort yourself by saying, “But, I still have my family.”

Whatever it may be (and there may be many things for you), we would say that this is something you are *proud of*. A different way to phrase this is that it is something you *boast in*. Jeremiah 9:23-25 says, “Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.” Jeremiah says that the most valuable and important thing—what you should be most proud of (or boast in)—is that you know God.

We have entered a study series, answering a crucial question: “Who is Jesus?” Previously, we looked at Matthew 1:21 to see that Jesus’ name itself identifies him as a savior. Now, we will look at Hebrews 1:8-12 to see that Jesus, the Son, is the LORD God himself. Please read all of Hebrews 1 to understand the context; I will include verses eight through twelve here:

“But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.  
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, as anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;  
they will perish, but you remain;

they will all wear out like a garment,  
like a robe you will roll them up,  
like a garment they will be changed.  
But you are the same,  
and your years will have no end.”

In this passage, the author of Hebrews is quoting parts of Psalm 45 and Psalm 102, which are addressing the LORD God. Interestingly, these Scriptures are applied to the Son, Jesus Christ, which means that the author of Hebrews is claiming that Jesus is the one true God as revealed in the Old Testament. Here in Hebrews 1:8-12, Jesus is described as ruling righteously forever, creating all things, and always existing—things which are only true of God. This is not the only passage that shows that Jesus is God; here are a few for you to look up on your own: John 8:58, John 10:30, Romans 9:5, Colossians 1:19, and Colossians 2:9.

Therefore, Jesus is fully, perfectly, and truly God. Yet, we know that he is also fully, perfectly, and truly man. Since he is fully God and fully man, he has two natures: his human nature and his divine nature. Although he has two natures, Jesus is still only one person. (This all can be confusing, and it should send your head spinning because it is mysterious. But it is important to apprehend it as much as possible.) A *nature* is a group of characteristics, but a *person* is a being who bears those characteristics. For example, my dog Rooney has a canine nature. A dog is the kind of creature that he is. This shown by the characteristics that dogs share: loyalty, a tail, paws, intelligence, fur, teeth, predatory inclination, et cetera. Yet, his person (if you will) is that individual, unique being we love and call Rooney bearing all of those characteristics.

You are only one person and have only one nature: human nature. Jesus is only one person, but he has two natures: human and divine. Jesus is not divided up into two personalities in one body; he is one person with two natures. While his two natures come together to form one person, his divine and human nature remain distinct, but not separated. In other words, when God took on flesh, he did not stop being fully God. Likewise, Jesus' is not any less human than you or I because his human nature is joined to divinity.

Therefore, what can be said about God, can be said about Jesus. Likewise, what can be said about humanity (apart from sin and its effects), can be said about Jesus. However, sometimes these things can seem to be at odds. It is true that Jesus is eternal as regards to his

divine nature, and it is also true that Jesus was born, aged, died, and came back to life as regards to his human nature. It is true that Jesus was taught by his mother and father since he is man, and yet it is also true that Jesus knew all things and did not need any instructor since he is God. (There were times when Jesus was on earth that he limited his divine power and knowledge.) We must hold these things together because he is both man and God. He is one person with two natures. Like I said above, it is mysterious, but the Bible testifies to it as truth—and as we have learned beforehand, all Scripture is from the mouth of the God who cannot lie.

Please know that it is not enough to know some Scripture and doctrine about Jesus being God. We must realize the significance of the truth that Jesus is God himself. We must actually understand and know him, as Jeremiah said. Here in Hebrews 1:8-12, we are told that Jesus is the good and just ruler of all, and will be ruling forever. Think about that. No one is higher in authority, more excellent in goodness, or more permanent than our Lord. He is the one who formed creation with perfect skill, imagination, and power from top to bottom. The heavens—the blue coloration, the layers of the atmosphere, the weather cycles, and the shining stars—are his works of art. If we find so much glory in the world around us, we will find so much more in the Creator of it all. Since Jesus is God, he is worthy of worship. We admire something when we find that it has value; the more valuable the object, the greater the delight we have in it and the greater the praise we give it. God is supreme in value, significance, and importance. Nothing is more important than him. We worship God for who he is, not just for what he does for us.

Being God, Jesus is the greatest person there is. I hope you see that he should be your boast. Knowing him personally as your Master and Friend is the most valuable thing in your life, and that should give you abundant joy and a sense of undeserved honor. If ever feel worthless or just sad, do not forget that you have God, if you are a Christian. Loving him is eternal life itself.

If you would like to talk to me about the lesson, you are welcome to contact me by phone or stop by the church.