

**Hebrews 1: 13; “Sit at My Right Hand”, Sermon # 6 in the series –
“Holding Fast our Confession”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall
on January 15th, 2012, in the Morning Worship Service.**

Here in this first chapter, the writer to the Hebrews is contrasting our Lord Jesus Christ with the angels, and proves to us that He is far above them. He is declaring to us that God’s Son is the ultimate Prophet which God sent to His ancient people the Jews, and that He is God’s final word to all mankind concerning salvation from sin. (Verses 1-3) He is the ultimate expression of God’s glory and power; His wisdom and His love, to a world full of lost sinners as we are. And so He has inherited a more excellent name than any of the angels have. (Verses 3 and 4) The writer of the book has shown us that the angels are servants of God; that they are ministering spirits who do His bidding. (Verses 7 and 14) Therefore we ought not to worship them, but we most certainly ought to worship Christ, God’s only-begotten Son. His throne, as God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of His kingdom. The pre-incarnate Son, who has come to be known to us as the Lord Jesus Christ, is the One who created the world and everything in it. And He is the One who will one day fold up the heavens like a garment and roll them up as a cloak. (Verses 10 and 11) All of this creation as we know it now will come to an end when He appears. He will judge the world in righteousness and those who have believed in Him in this life will enter in to eternity with Him; into the New Heavens and Earth that He will recreate before our eyes. Do you look forward to this Day? Can you look forward by faith to your own death, and your meeting this King of Kings and Lord of Lords; or are you uncertain whether you can believe that He is really this great? Well, He is this great. If angels are great in might and power, then surely our Lord Jesus is infinitely greater and more glorious.

And so as we come to the end of chapter one, I need to preach to you one more message which will show us how much greater is our Christ than the angels. “But to which of the angels has God the Father ever said, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool?’” He never said it to one of them. But to His only-begotten Son, He said it. This verse is quoted by the writers of the New Testament more than any other verse they have taken from the Old Testament to use. No less than eight times it is quoted in some form. So it must be a very important, and a very key verse. The Majesty and Glory of Christ Jesus our Lord are seen in His Patient Rule at the right hand of the Father in heaven. His sitting at the right hand of God, at this present time, is what theologians call His “session” at the right hand of the Father. He has been sitting at the right hand of the Father since His resurrection and Ascension. He will continue to sit there until “all His enemies are made a footstool for His feet. So this morning we will first ask the question: What does Christ’s coming to sit at the right hand of the Father mean? And then 2ndly we will ask – What does it mean for Christ’s enemies to be made

His footstool? I hope that each one of us will learn by faith to see the Lord Jesus Christ in this exalted way, as we learn to pray to him, and as we think about what we can do to promote His glorious kingdom.

1st of all – What did the Father mean when He said to the Son, “Sit at My right hand”?

We need to understand first of all that God the Father is Spirit, and that He does not have a physical body. This is where the Mormons err in their doctrine. They believe that the Father has a body of flesh and bones. They believe that there will be marriage in heaven. But the Bible knows nothing of these things. The Father does not have a body of flesh and bones, or a right hand or a left. These are anthropopathic expressions which are applied to the deity. The use of Anthropopathy in the writing of the Bible, was when the authors of Scripture wrote down, by the direct inspiration of God, descriptions of God which would be normally be used in describing a man or something that a man does. This was done so that people would be better able to better understand the incomprehensible God. These anthropopathies were written down for us in the Scriptures, so that we might be able to spiritually conceive of the Personhood of the Father. There are in the Godhead 3 persons, but only one Divine Essence. Benjamin Keach in his fine book entitled, *“The Types and Metaphors of the Bible”* says this: The phrase of Christ’s sitting at the right hand of God being exalted in his human nature, as it says in a number of places in the Bible, is not to be understood properly, as if there were a local situation in a certain place of heaven, but by an Anthropopathy or scripture way of speaking; and is to be understood of a dominion and power most powerfully and immediately operating and governing...” When Keach says this, he is not meaning to say that Christ is not physically in heaven, the place where God dwells as spirit. He is saying that Christ does dwell there presently. But he is saying that the Scriptures are attempting to describe the Person of the Father and His dwelling place in terms which we can understand. It is because God is Infinite and Omnipresent in His being that such a description is needed. Christ is actually seated in the heavens. And He is seated on a throne there. But the Father does not have a literal physical right side or hand. The angels no doubt surround this throne in heaven, but they do not see the Father having a physical body. But they do see the Lord Jesus Christ, God’s only Son seated there physically now.

The reason that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father is because He, as the Mediator between God and men, has finished the work of redemption on behalf of all whom the Father has chosen unto eternal life. It is a finished and complete work of perfect obedience to God’s law and His suffering the punishment which was due to your sins, if you have believed in Him for the free gift of salvation. He has become your great high priest if you have believed in Him. He sits down, there, at the Father’s right hand, because by the offering of Himself on the cross as a sacrifice, the Father’s justice was perfectly satisfied in regard to all

those trusting in Jesus. He has become their Savior and their Lord, and has established a New Covenant through His blood; a better covenant than the Old covenant enacted at Sinai under Moses, one that has better promises. Turn over to Hebrews Chapter 8, verse 1. “Now this is main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.” “For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices.” “Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.” “For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle.” “For He said, ‘See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.’” “But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.”

Look also over at Hebrews 10, verse 11. “And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.” “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.” “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.” You see, because Christ Jesus did this great work of justice on God’s behalf, and obedience and suffering on man’s behalf, you and I who believe are sanctified through that offering of His. We are set apart to all of God’s holy purposes in our salvation. God the Father is satisfied, and so Christ His Son deserves the highest place and is given the Highest place in heaven and earth; He is seated at His right hand. Let me apply it this way; if God the Father has given His Son the highest place in heaven and rule over all the earth, have you done the same? There are many people in this world that give themselves or some other person the highest place in their heart and mind, but it does not glorify God. It only glorifies God when you give Christ the highest place in your heart and your thoughts each and every day. Will you glorify God; and see this morning that Christ is worthy of your giving Him the highest place in your life? He is worthy of your giving Him your time, your talents, and all of your service. He is worthy of your beginning to promote His kingdom and His rule over your life, and the life of your family. Lead them in family worship. Read them the Bible and pray with them. Our Christ is worthy of our personal praise, our prayers, and our worship. Be faithful in personal and private worship. He is worthy of your setting Him always before you in terms of your obedience to His Word. He is worthy of your spending your time to help others to understand His glory, His sacrifice, His love, and His salvation. He is worthy of your taking a more deliberate stand to promote Him to the highest place in your thoughts. Listen to Colossians 3: 1 – “If then you were raised with Christ, seek (keeping seeking) those things which are above, where Christ is,

sitting at the right hand of God. You see, that is where the action is; it is your seeking the things above where Christ is now seated. You need to become more heavenly minded to be of any earthly good to God.

Do you consciously and deliberately worship the Lord Jesus Christ each and every day? Do you worship the Father and the Spirit through Him? Do you consciously and deliberately place Him in the highest place of your thoughts and feelings in regard to every subject under consideration? You see; that is what God is looking for from you. This will change the way that you think and the way that you live. The living and risen Christ is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high. He is sitting there, having taken His rest from His labors. He is sitting there now in the glory, in the presence of the Father and the Holy Spirit, and all the spirits of all the saints from every generation before us. There is fullness of joy there. There are pleasures forevermore there. But are these truths at work in your heart? Do you realize that by faith in Him that you are seated there with Him in the heavenly places? It ought to lead you to consider what good works you might do for him. Listen to Ephesians 2: 4 and following: "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." The reason that you were saved, if you are saved, is not so that you might crown yourself king or queen of your life and live your life for yourself. The reason that you have been saved is so that, being God's workmanship through His grace, you might engage in many good works and thus bring glory to God and to Christ. Let me ask you whether you are engaged in these good works? There are the good works of worshiping God every day and teaching your children to do so. There are the good works of coming to church every Sunday and attending upon the services so that you might grow in knowledge and understanding, and wisdom, and love for the brethren. Yours is a living relationship with Christ, but it translates into religious works; worship is the first and greatest of those works. Then there is the work of serving Christ in thinking of how to promote his kingdom and His glory. This is accomplished by speaking of Him and His works daily. Whether it is His works of grace or His works of creation or providence; all of these should be upon your lips. And then this worship and service of Christ ought to translate into the good deeds of helping the brethren and even helping strangers if the Lord so leads. Give Christ the highest place since the Father has given Him the highest place; sitting at His right hand.

Now 2ndly - We will ask the question – What does it mean for Christ’s enemies to be made His footstool?

“But to which of the angels has the Father ever said: ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool?’ These words have everything to do with the advancement of Christ’s kingdom upon the earth until His Second Coming. When the Father said, “Sit at My right hand,” He said it when Christ ascended to heaven after His resurrection. What He says to Him has reference to the whole of the Church age. Jesus will sit there in heaven at the Father’s right hand until the Father makes Christ’s enemies His footstool. These words are a quote from Psalm 110, verse 1, and so I would have you to turn back to that Psalm. “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’” “The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.” “Rule in the midst of Your enemies.” “Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; in the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.” “The Lord has sworn and will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Mechizedek.’” “The Lord is at Your right hand: He shall execute kings in the day of his wrath.” “He shall judge among the nations.” “He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries.” “He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; therefore He shall life up the head.” The Psalm starts out with God the Father, Jehovah or Yahweh, saying to my Adonai (that is to king David’s Lord, his Messiah), ‘Sit at My right hand.’ He will sit there as we have said before, “until the Father makes His enemies His footstool for His feet.” The first way that the Father makes Christ’s enemies His footstool during the time of this Church age is by His sending out the “rod of Christ’s strength” out of Zion. The rod of Christ’s strength is the gospel and the Word of God, which at the beginning of the Church age would proceed out of Zion. The gospel would proceed out of Jerusalem by the Lord the Holy Spirit sending it out through the preaching of the Apostles; and in this unusual way, the Lord Jesus Christ would “rule in the midst of His enemies”. The decreed command of the Father is that this is how Christ our Lord and King would reign and rule all during the time of this present age. The Lord Jesus Christ has been given all power and all authority in heaven and earth. He is presently reigning now in heaven over the whole universe. But there are, as you may know, many enemies to His rule and the advance of His kingdom in their hearts. It is the Father’s purpose in accordance with His electing choice to strike at their hearts, but not to hurt them; but to save them from their sins. We are all enemies to God and to Christ before our conversion to Christ, even though we may have gone to some church and been religious for many years. But just because we go to church does not necessarily mean that we see our need of a righteousness better than our own. We may not at all see our need of conversion; of being born again, or of needing to ask God for forgiveness. Many think that they are good enough people as they are, without

Christ. But this is not true, and so the Bible teaches us a better way than our own self-evaluation.

Hold your place here in Psalm 110, and turn over with me for a few moments to Psalm 45, verse 1. “My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition to the King: My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.” “You are fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips; therefore God has blessed You forever.” “Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty.” “And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; and Your right hand shall teach You awesome things.” “Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King’s enemies; the peoples fall under You.” You see, this is the cause and kingdom which the Father promotes and supports, and acts in many ways to establish and further it; all through the Church age. It is the cause of His Son; the cause of truth, humility, and righteousness. His right hand, the hand of His saving power and the hand of His destroying power, will teach Christ His Son who is the King of Kings, awesome things. His arrows of conviction through the preaching of the Word of God will be sharp in the hearts of the many sinners to save them, and to change them in their hearts by His mighty power. “No man can come to Me,” the Lord Jesus says, “unless the Father draws them.” The Father draws them by first having them to see that they have broken His holy law; His commandments. He shoots arrows of this truth into their hearts by the preaching of the law and they are convicted of their sins. Then He draws them with everlasting love and kindness through their hearing the gospel of Christ’s dying in their place at the cross; His having lived the perfect life of obedience to His law. And then He opens their wounded hearts by the power of His Holy Spirit and He pours into them the balm of the good news of the gospel. “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” Let me ask you this morning if God the Father and Jesus Christ our Lord have dealt with the enemy of sin which is within your heart? Are you sins forgiven? Are they all subdued or being subdued? Can you say with the prophet Micah in Micah 7: 18, “Who is a pardoning God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?” Can you say, “He does not keep His anger forever, because He delights in mercy, and will again have compassion on you; that He will, and He is, subduing all of your iniquities?” O what a precious reality this is in the life of every believer. For they also know that those who will not be healed in their hearts will be utterly destroyed forever.”

That is the other part of Psalm 110 and this text in Hebrews 1: 13 that we need to take notice of. When it says, “Sit at My right hand till I make Your enemies Your footstool, it is not only speaking of individuals who oppose the advance of the

kingdom of Christ in their hearts, it is speaking of nations and kingdoms which oppose His rule. This is evident from Psalm 110, verse 5 and following. It says there: "The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath." "He will judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries." "He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; therefore He shall lift up the head." These verses most certainly could be referred to Christ's Second Coming physically and bodily at the end of time because that is the time when all wicked and unbelieving men shall know the wrath of the Son of God. It appears to be speaking of Christ's literally physically drinking from the brook by the wayside after He conquers in the final battle when He returns the 2nd time. But if this is true, it is coupled with another meaning for Him. It has reference to something which He remembers from His life here upon the earth. He remembers His own sufferings in the garden of Gethsemane. When He entered into His sufferings, it says in John 18: 1, "He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. Then it was that He passed through the waters of affliction. He may have drank from the brook then, but He could not lift up His head except in prayer that the Father remove this cup (of His sufferings) from Him. He was about to commence His drinking of that cup, for us His people. When He returns, however, He will be able to lift up His head in triumph over all of His enemies, and perhaps really drink from that brook. 1 Corinthians 15: 25 says, "For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet." "The last enemy that will be destroyed is death." Christ will then have overcome, not only all human opposition, but even death itself shall be conquered finally, and forever for all of His people.

But these words also have reference to the Father's providentially ordering all things for the good of His people in relation to all of their difficulties and oppositions and sufferings in trying to advance Christ's kingdom and His cause among the nations of the earth. All of Christ's enemies among the nations and the kingdom of this world shall be progressively placed under His feet. The Father did this in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. He did it in the overthrow of the Pagan Roman Empire. And He will yet do it in the overthrow of the Antichristian powers of Islam and Papal Rome and all the false religions of the world. Christ has been drinking from the brook of His sufferings all through this Church age, while He sits at the Father's right hand. And He is able to lift up His head in relation to the advance of His kingdom, the Church, all through this Church age. He went forth conquering to conquer in the dew of His youth in and through the preaching of His gospel by the early Church. The cause of truth and righteousness, even from that time forward, has been advanced by Christ's people volunteering freely in the day of His power to do service for Him and to promote His truth, as it says in verse 3. This does not appear to be limited to one eschatological fulfillment at the time of His 2nd Coming. This progress of Christ's kingdom through the

Father's making His enemies and theirs, a footstool for His feet, is something for which Christ died. It is something which the Father has, and He will reward Him with. "In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, Christ has seen the dew of His youth. That is, the Father has determined to put all of His enemies under His feet before He returns to judge the world, and recreate the New Heavens and the New Earth. Will you not take courage from this my brethren? There is much evangelistic work yet to do. And there is much mighty spiritual work which the Father and the Holy Spirit will do before Christ comes back. Let us remember this very important verse. For it is forms the prophetic basis for all the work which Christ's body the Church has yet to do for Him until He returns. "Sit at my right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool."