

Appealing to the Angels

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Introduction: There is another creation that men cannot see.

- A. The Bible claims that the unseen realm is the greater reality. **(Heb 11:3)**
 - 1. We are expected to believe the existence of many things we cannot see.
 - 2. We believe in an invisible God. **(Jn 1:18; Col 1:15; 1 Tim 1:17)**
- B. There is reasonable evidence to believe in these things.
 - 1. Rather than prove every point about the unseen world God proves to us the identity of His son. **(Rom 1:3-4)**
 - 2. If Jesus is who He claimed to be, then His testimony is sure. **(Jn 6:46; 8:38)**
 - 3. Jesus and His apostles commonly appeal to the angels as examples that we might learn.

“I accept the existence of angels as an element of the mysterious reality of God's plenitude. Obviously, with angelic choirs the creation must be a more complex, diverse, and manifold reality than one might want to imagine. Angels are a sign that God's goodness must be excessively fruitful; it overflows in creative energy. Infinite varieties of beings can be sustained and flourish in this good and bountiful system.”

I. Some Facts about Angels

- A. Angels are created beings. **(Col 1:16)**
 - 1. They have a beginning.
 - 2. But they will not die. **(Lk 20:36)**
- B. Angels have a greater power and place than man. **(Heb 2:6-7)**
 - 1. We have a great advantage over angels in that we have God's help. **(Heb 2:16)**
 - 2. We will have a greater place before God in eternity.
 - 3. Do you see your need of God's help? How do you pray?
- C. Angels are powerful.
 - 1. They have great strength. **(Isa 37:36)**
 - 2. They have great wisdom. **(1 Cor 13:1)**
 - 3. They play a role in our salvation. **(Heb 1:14)**
 - 4. Can you imagine what twelve legions of angels could do? **(Mt 26:53-54)**
 - 5. What do these wise, powerful beings consider valuable?
- D. Angels have a given place.
 - 1. They are not to be worshiped. **(Col 2:18; Rev 22:8-9)**
 - 2. They can leave their place and thus sin. **(Jude 6)**
 - 3. Unlike us, angels have no plan of salvation.

II. The Example of Angels helps us Recognize Value

- A. Jesus is the Son of God and not an angel.
 - 1. No angel was ever called the Son of God. **(Heb 1:5-6)**
 - 2. No angel can be worshipped, but Jesus is. **(Mt 28:9, 17)**
 - 3. No angel will have the world subjected to him. **(Heb 1:13, 2:5)**
 - 4. Jesus is much greater than the angels. **(Heb 1:4)**
 - 5. We should never be ashamed to call upon Jesus as our God!
- B. The greatness of the gospel of Christ

1. Jesus gave the New Testament verses the angels giving the Old. (**Heb 2:1-3; Gal 3:19**)
 2. The angels wanted to know the things we now have in the gospel. (**1 Pt 1:12**)
 3. No angel can change the gospel because it is complete! (**Gal 1:8**)
- C. Our place in God's church is great. (**Heb 12:22, 25**)
1. Angels witness our actions as Christians. (**Mt 18:10; 1 Cor 4:9**)
 2. Christian, you are not alone! How should this knowledge help us in doing right and resisting sin?

III. Angels are Appealed to Concerning How We Live

- A. God wishes women to wear a "symbol of authority" on her head. (**1 Cor 11:10**)
1. We must recognize the God-given order of subjection. (**1 Cor 11:3-4**)
 2. How do angels teach us about subjection?
- B. We must have a deep respect for God's authority. (**Jude 6**)
1. Jesus expects the angels to obey Him. (**1 Pt 3:22**)
 2. Disobedient angels will suffer the wrath of God. (**2 Pt 2:4**)
 3. Even though they are wise and have great power, they too can succumb to the allures of pride. Satan is likely a fallen angel!
 4. Angels, like men, can be an example in their disobedience. You do not be one!
- C. We should seek wisdom in this life because we will judge angels. (**1 Cor 6:3**)
- D. We must be careful how we use our tongues. (**2 Pt 2:11-12**)
1. Foolish men ignore the wisdom of angels.
 2. How do you speak of others? "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."
- E. We must open our homes for the cause of Christ. (**Heb 13:1-3**)
1. We cannot see the heart! We often make judgments based on the flesh!
 2. We also cannot know if an angelic being is in our midst!

IV. Angels are Appealed to Concerning Our Destiny

- A. We can know of the great value of our own repentance. (**Lk 15:10**)
1. The world scoffs at this change of life. What do the angels think?
 2. Do you know the value of repentance? Where is your heart?
- B. As faithful Christians we can know we will not be alone at death. (**Lk 16:22**)
- C. Angels will have a great work at the Second Coming of Christ. (**2 Th 1:7; Mt 13:41**)
1. Where will the angels put you? (**Mt 13:49**)
 2. Can you see the unseen?
- D. Angels will witness our personal judgement.
1. Will Jesus confess my name? (**Rev 3:5**)
 2. Will Jesus be ashamed of me? (**Lk 9:26; 12:8-9**)
 3. What will the angels witness of me?

Conclusion: We have a salvation that no created thing can take from us! (**Rom 8:38**)

A. We must do something that no angel is allowed to do, preach the gospel.
 "Angels cannot preach the gospel, only beings such as Paul and you and I can preach the gospel." -- Oswald Chambers

B. What do you consider valuable?