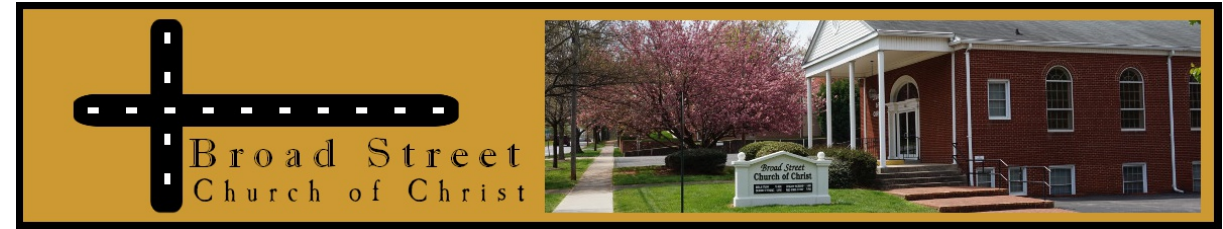


Broad Street Church of Christ
 433 E. Broad St.
 Statesville, NC 28677 | 704.873.4836
 www.broadstreetchurchofchrist.org



March 20, 2016

Hebrews 1:14 – Providential Care

Could Hebrews 1:14 be understood as God’s providential care for those who are in Christ?

In Hebrews 1:14 we read, “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” The context of this remark is in reference to comparing Jesus with God’s angels. The authority of Jesus is so much better than the authority of angels because He is on the right hand of God whereas the angels are merely ministering spirits. This is by far the best description that we are given concerning the responsibilities of angels within the New Testament. From this verse we learn that 1) they are ministering. 2) They are spirits. 3) They are sent from God. 4) They minister to the heirs of salvation. Is this part of God’s providential care for those who are still alive and in Christ today?

First, it is evident that today, those who are heirs of salvation must be in Christ. We read in Galatians 3:27-29 “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Those who are in Christ are heirs. This passage makes that crystal clear. So in that sense, Hebrews 1:14 can be understood to apply to those who are in Christ, because they are heirs of salvation.

Second, as to the question of God’s providential care for those who are in Christ, we just don’t know how God works providentially to make things come out the way He wants them to come out. We know from the Old Testament that God works in providential ways—that is, ways in which He provides for His people. We know from Joseph’s statement in Genesis 50:20 (“But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”) that God can sometimes work in ways that are outside our understanding and not in a way that is immediately recognizable as being God’s work and we refer to this as God’s providence. Such passages as Romans 8:28 (“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to

What must I do to be saved?
 Hear the Gospel (Acts 15:7); Believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16); Repent of Sins (Acts 17:30); Confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10); Be Baptized (Acts 2:38)

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|------------------------|----------------|
| Scripture Reading: | Scott Phillips |
| Song Leader: | John Anderson |
| Opening Prayer (A.M.): | Lenny Freeze |
| Closing Prayer (A.M.): | Bradley Speer |
| Opening Prayer (P.M.): | Steve Short |
| Closing Prayer (P.M.): | Tommy Smith |
| Nursery Attendant: | Amy Brookshire |

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Building Lockup: | Johnny Smith |
| Announcements: | John Anderson |
| Door Greeters: | Steve and Hassie Short |
| Count Contribution: | Johnny Smith, Guy Byrd |

| Worship Times | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Sunday Bible Study | 10:00 A.M. |
| Sunday A.M. Worship | 10:55 A.M. |
| Sunday P.M. Worship | 6:00 P.M. |
| Wednesday Bible Study | 7:00 P.M. |
| Elders | |
| John Anderson | 704.592.2266 |
| Steve Short | 704.872.5440 |
| Tommy Smith | 704.872.7966 |
| Bradley Speer | 704.876.6986 |
| Preacher | |
| Dave Wood | 704.380.4437 |

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|-----------------------|---|
| Prepare Lord's Table: | Carol Byrd |
| Lord's Supper (A.M.): | Billy Ellenburg, Joe Burriss, Elliot Nesbitt, Shawn Sharpe |
| Lord's Supper (P.M.): | Landon Speer |

his purpose.”) also bear record that God is working today in a non-miraculous but providential way. How all does God accomplish these things? We just don’t have the answers to those questions. Does God use angels to carry out his providential will today? It would be within His power to do so. Does Hebrews 1:14 indicate this? In the specific sense of what is God’s providential work, I don’t know. I don’t know exactly what the specific duties of these angels are and what their ministry is per se. They work for God and they minister to the heirs of salvation. Does this involve God’s providence? Well, let me answer it this way. Whatever they are doing when serving God, it doesn’t go against God’s purposes for man’s salvation. So in that general sense, we could say that they are involved in God’s providence. But in this same general sense, WE are involved in God’s providence as well when we are obedient to God and do His will in our lives. The bottom line is this; we should not look to God’s providence outside of what He says that He is going to do through His word. Faith still comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17) and without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). The implication is that without hearing the word of God it is impossible to please God.

The bottom line in answer to this question is this: In a general sense, everyone who obeys God is working within God’s providence. So the answer to the question is, Yes, this passage can be understood as being part of God’s providence in that sense, but in the specific sense of does God give specific instruction for angels to carry out in regard to helping and protecting the heirs of salvation? I don’t think we have enough information to answer that question. And if we don’t have the information, it isn’t by faith that we can believe something like that. By: Kevin Cauley

Welcome to Broad Street Church of Christ

A special welcome is extended to all of our guests. Please let us know if we can assist you. Please fill out a visitor's card which is located on the back of the pew in front of you. Deposit the card in the collection plate when it is passed. If you are looking for a place to worship regularly, we would love to have you here at Broad Street. Please come back and visit with us again.

SHUT-INS:

Ruby Gibson, Christine Cartner and Frances Elam.

PRAYERS:

Johnny Smith Jr., Phyllis Rumble, Stanley Sharpe, Helen Lyerly, Doris Ellenburg, Stacey Jordan, Will Winchester, Betty Smith, Jo Anne Leake, Nealie Kilpatrick and Roy Baldwin.

- Frank Shepherd has been diagnosed with stage four cancer. He will undergo surgery to remove the cancer at the end of this week.

- Roger and Sheryl Lippard's son-in-law, Justin has been diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy. He will be starting eye injections on Monday to treat this disease. Please keep Melissa and Justin in your prayers.

- Charles Elliott, had stint put into his heart last week. After a trip to the hospital in Asheville Charles is now back home recovering from his surgery.

Upcoming Events:

Mar. 20: Men's training class will meet at 5:15 P.M.

Mar. 24: Book of the month fellowship at 6:30 P.M.

Mar. 27: Fourth Sunday evening singing. There will be a fellowship following evening services.

Apr. 02: Men's breakfast will meet at the RX at 8:30 A.M.

Apr. 09: Ladies' breakfast will meet at 8:30 A.M. (Place to be determined)

Apr. 11: Ladies' class will meet at 6:30 P.M.

Apr. 14: Book of the Month fellowship will meet at 6:30 P.M.

Sermons:

A.M. - Sincerity of Life (Matt. 22:35-40);

P.M. - Studies in Samuel Part Two (1 Samuel 2:22-24)