

That which fascinates us, even God-given gifts, should never distract us from Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is the supreme revelation of God and who is supremely qualified to meet all our needs. No one and nothing in all creation matches Jesus Christ. God has spoken by His Son. His multiple excellences as expressed in these verses show Jesus to be the supreme revelation of God and argue why we must listen to Him.

1. **Heir (1:2b)**

Culturally the son was the heir. Biblically the Messiah-King was promised the ends of earth as His possession (Psalm 2:6–9; cf. Revelation 2:27). Jesus, as the Messiah, will yet in the future possess all things.

→ True believers are joint heirs with Jesus Christ (Romans 8:17). Jesus, the Heir, is the only way to have a part in the good future which God has prepared. Seek no other substitute, no other security for the future, than Jesus.

2. **Creator (1:2c)**

Though promised Heir of the future, the Son was also the divine Agent of creation. The entire created universe was His work (John 1:1–2; Colossians 1:16; cf. Hebrews 11:3).

→ As Creator, Jesus rightfully deserves the submission of all, though the world did not accept Him (John 1:10–11). One day the world will submit; it is better to do so voluntarily now.

3. **Radiance (1:3a)**

Radiance is the light emanating from a source, like the light from the sun. Jesus is the true light, His glory is the glory of God (John 1:9, 14; 12:39–41; cf. Isaiah 6:1–5). The former glory of the Tabernacle was not needed.

→ Jesus is the light of men, dispelling darkness in the heart (John 1:4–5, 9). Nothing else should dazzle your eyes like Jesus who radiates God’s glory.

4. **Revealer (1:3b)**

Like the imprint left by a die, Jesus exactly matches the very essence of God the Father. Shadow representations of God, even those given in the O.T., are not needed when you have Jesus. Don’t go back to them, when you have Jesus.

→ To see Jesus is to see God the Father; to know Jesus is to know God the Father (John 14:7, 9). To learn more about God, look to Jesus. Even creation, which declares the glory of God, is not an exact representation of the essence of God, like Jesus is.

5. **Upholder (1:3c)**

Jesus carries along (“sustains” or “upholds”) the universe toward the goal which God has for it. His powerful word is sufficient, just as by it He created (Hebrews 11:3), spoke with the prophets (e.g., Genesis 15:1; Exodus 17:1), or healed, raised the dead, and stilled the storm.

→ The believer can rest in Jesus getting him or her to the goal God has intended, that is, into His eternal presence and along the way shaping the believer into the image of Christ.

6. **Cleanser (1:3d)**

Atoning sacrifices pictured the necessity of being cleansed from sin (cf. Leviticus 16:30). Jesus provided for that purification by dying as a sacrifice on the cross. Sin is each person’s main problem. It deceives, entangles, and ultimately ends in fiery judgment (Hebrews 3:13; 12:1; 10:26–27). Only in Jesus can a person be cleansed of defiling sin.

→ Everyday we need cleansing from sin. When we confess our sin, God is faithful to forgive and cleanse (1 John 1:9). Unbelievers do not need behavioral change as much as they need forgiveness and cleansing which only comes in Jesus Christ.

7. **Ruler (1:3e)**

In an allusion to Psalm 110:1, Jesus the Son, is described as having sat down in the place of honor and authority at the right hand of God (“the Majesty on high”). In this position His priestly work is completed and He rules as King (Psalm 110:2).

→ His position is a guarantee to every believer of inheritance, protection, and purification. The believer has all in Jesus. We need turn to none other.

If you have not confessed Christ as Lord and Savior, do not delay to do so. If you have professed Christ as your Lord and Savior, hold fast to your profession and look constantly to Jesus. He is supreme. Listen to Him.

For further reflection: • How would you personally rate the centrality of Jesus in your life? • Do you consider Him the supreme source of all that you need? • Is He becoming more and more what you desire? • How do you relate to Him in each of the above seven “excellencies”? • What would help you improve?