

"Jesus is Superior because of His Humanity"

Hebrews 2:5-18

Part 2

Introduction: Tonight as we return to our study of Hebrews again shall step into 2:5-18. The verses which we find in this passage are full of spiritual gold for us to dig for. This section of Hebrews focuses upon the humanity of our Lord. In chapter 1 the writer presented some of the greatest verses in the Bible that deal with the deity of Jesus Christ. Then as we come to chapter 2 we get some of the greatest verses on the humanity of Jesus Christ.

Now last week I told you that we are fully aware of the attacks on the deity of our Lord but many times we do not stop and consider the attacks from Satan on the humanity of Jesus. One of the very first false teachings that arose in the early church was against the humanity of our Lord. This false teaching came about during the days of the Apostle John and we can see how he defended the humanity of Jesus in his writings.

1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

² *Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:*

³ *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

In the section which we are in we can see clearly why Satan would want to cast doubt upon the humanity of Jesus Christ. The writer of Hebrews points to 4 blessings that we can hold tightly to because of the humanity of Jesus Christ.

- 1) **Jesus Christ became a man to restore our lost destiny.**

This is what we looked at last week and I want us to quickly review this because there is a verse here that we need to spend some time on tonight.

Notice Hebrews 2:5

Here in this verse the writer points to the "world to come" which is a reference to the beginning of the Kingdom Age and flowing right through eternity. This is a part of the "Great Salvation" which the writer referenced in 2:3. He tells us in 2:5 that the world to come will not be ruled by angels.

Notice Hebrews 2:6-8a

Here the writer points back to the Old Testament to Psalm 8 which is written by David. In these verses David writes concerning man. God had created man to be the king of the earth. It was God's original plan for man to have dominion over all the earth. God's plan is to place everything under the dominion of man.

The phrase in verse 7 is very important.

"Thou madest him a little lower than the angels"...

This actually means that man is made a little lower than the angels for a period of time. The idea is that man will not always be a little lower than the angels. There will come a day when man will be the king of the earth and will rule over the angels.

Let me show you what Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 6:3

³ Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

Notice Hebrews 2:8 again.

Here the writer tells his readers that all of this has not yet come to pass. Now last week I told you that there were 3 things that have kept man from having dominion over the earth as described in these verses.

1. Sin
2. The curse
3. Death

Because of these mankind has never been able to reach the position which God had originally intended for him. We all try to exercise dominion but under the curse it is all vanity and vexation of spirit. This brings us to the next verse which is so very important.

Notice Hebrews 2:9

Last week we did not spend much time on this verse so tonight I want to show you 2 points from this verse:

1. **The meaning for the Jewish believers who received this letter.**

We need to be reminded at times that to view this letter through our American eyes does not allow us to understand what is really being said. We must see this letter through Jewish eyes and we must again see it through the lens of the theme. The theme again is to show the Jewish readers that Jesus is better than anything under the Old Covenant. The purpose of the letter is to pull them forward in their spiritual walk. These believers were under persecution and were considering returning to Judaism.

Now with that said you will be able to understand this verse much better.

Notice Hebrews 2:9 again.

This verse tells us that Jesus was "made a little lower than the angels FOR THE SUFFERING OF DEATH and the writer also tells us that He "tasted death for every man".

The Jews had a very hard time with the cross. Let me show you a verse that will help you to see what I am talking about.

1 Corinthians 1:23

²³ *But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;*

The cross and the death of Jesus Christ were both stumbling blocks to the Jews. The Jews were looking for a King that would set up His Kingdom as described in the Old Testament and so when Jesus came to this earth and was nailed to the cross the Jewish people struggle with that. The Jews were aware of something which Paul said.

Galatians 3:13

¹³ *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

So the Jews were struggling with 2 things really:

- a. How could Jesus be better than the angels if He was a man?

- b. How could Jesus be better than the angels if He died?

Therefore in this section which we are in the writer is showing why Jesus had to become a man and here in Hebrews 2:9 the writer is telling them that Jesus had to be a Man in order to restore the crown to mankind.

2. **He was man's Substitute.**

⁹ *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

Jesus Christ drank of the cup of death for every man. He did not die for a select few but He died for every man so that every man could have the opportunity to be saved. He had to become a Man in order to be our Substitute. No angel could die for the sins of man for the Sacrifice had to be of the same human race. That is why God became a man.

So to these Jewish readers he is saying, "Jesus is better than the angels because He became a Man and went to the cross and died as your Substitute so that in the world to come you can be restored to your original destiny which was to be the king of the earth."

This brings us to the second reason why Jesus became a Man:

2) **Jesus became a Man to restore our lost unity.**

Part 1

Notice Hebrews 2:10

I want you to see several thoughts from this verse. Let us look first of all at the very first statement which is absolutely wonderful.

"*For it became him*" - The first word "for" is a connective and it pointing us back to the end of the previous verse where we were told that Jesus tasted death for every man. So the thought here is that when Jesus was nailed to the cross and He died as our Substitute "it became Him" to die that way.

Now we need to understand what this phrase means. According to Thayer's Greek Lexicon the phrase means "that which is befitting". In other words it refers to that which fits into the character of a person. Let me show you a verse from Titus that will help with this.

Titus 1:14-2:1

¹⁴ *Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.*

¹⁵ *Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.*

¹⁶ *They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*

¹ *But speak thou the things which **become** sound doctrine.*

The word "become" here is the same word as in Hebrews 2:10. Paul tells Titus here to speak words that are "fitting" with sound doctrine. Not fables and the commandments of men which will lead people away from the Truth of God's Word. Those things are not "fitting" to the character of a believer but words of sound doctrine are.

That is the very meaning of the word in Hebrews 2:10. Jesus was nailed to the cross where He suffered and died and that cross (which the Jews stumbled over) was "fitting" with the character of God. That makes me ask a question, "How was Jesus death on the cross "fitting" with the character of God?" Listen to this:

- a. **It demonstrated His love.**

John 3:16

¹⁶ *For God **so loved** the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Let me show you what Paul prayed for the believers at Ephesus concerning the love of God:

Ephesians 3:18-19a

¹⁸ *May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

¹⁹ *And to know the love of Christ,*

The cross shows 4 points of God's love:

- ✓ God's love is wide enough to include every person.
- ✓ God's love is long enough to last through all eternity.
- ✓ God's love is deep enough to reach the worst sinner.
- ✓ God's love is high enough to seat us in the heavenly places.

b. **It demonstrated His wisdom.**

The cross not only demonstrated the love of God but also His wisdom. The cross was a plan that no man could have ever thought up. Man needed a sinless Sacrifice to die in his place but no one would qualify because we are all born into sin. So God became a Man and He went to the cross to die for our sins. He was the sinless sacrifice for you and me.

c. **It demonstrated His grace.**

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by **grace** are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Grace is "unmerited favor" or in other words it is getting something that we do not deserve. The cross was the means for our Gift of eternal life and that is truly a Gift that we do not deserve.

These are just 3 ways we can see that the Jesus death on the cross was "befitting" of the character of God.

Notice Hebrews 2:10 again.

We also see in this verse that Jesus is the "Captain" of salvation. This is one of the most interesting words we will find in the Bible. Let me show you the meaning of the word "Captain". Here is the Blue Letter Bible definition:

Archēgos- *one that takes the lead in any thing and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer.*

Let me illustrate this so that you can grasp what the writer is saying here because this is absolutely beautiful.

Years ago on the ships there used to be a man who was called an "archegos". When there was a storm and the ship would come to the shore this man would stand on the front of the ship and as the ship came close to the shore he would dive into the deadly waters and he would swim to the shore with a rope that was attached to the ship. He would secure the rope on solid land and then those who were on the ship could hold onto the rope and they would be able to safely make it through the deadly waters and onto solid ground.

This is the very picture of Jesus which the writer of Hebrews is putting forth for us to see here. Jesus went before us and He dove into the stormy waters of death and He came out on the other side in the resurrection. Now let me show you something in the verse.

Hebrews 2:10

¹⁰ *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

The purpose of the cross was to "bring many sons into glory" and He led the way as our Archegos. He entered into the stormy waters of death and 3 days later He rose victorious. Now we do not need to fear death because our Archegos has led the way and He has defeated death.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

⁵⁵ *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*

⁵⁷ *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Conclusion:

There is so much more but we are out of time. But I will leave you with a reminder and that is Jesus accomplished this in His humanity. If He had not become a Man none of this would be true. That is why Satan attacks the humanity of our Lord.