

"Jesus is Superior because of His Humanity"

Hebrews 2:5-18

Part 4

Introduction: Tonight as we come back to the study of Hebrews we again are stepping into chapter 2 where the writer is pointing to the humanity of our Lord to show that He is better than the angels, the prophets, or anything of the Old Covenant.

Now this study of our Lord's humanity which really started in Hebrews 2:5 is one of the richest texts we will find concerning our Lord's becoming a man. There are 4 blessings found within Hebrews 2:5-18 that are for us because Jesus became a man. I want to quickly review what we have considered so far. The first blessing we see because of our Lord's humanity is:

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

This is seen in Hebrews 2:5-9 and in these verses the writer points to the writing of David in Psalm 8 where David points to the original plan of God for man. God had originally appointed man to be the king of His creation. All things were to be placed under the subjection of man but man lost his dominion when he committed sin. Therefore the writer of Hebrews says that we do not see man in the position which God appointed him to.

Notice Hebrews 2:8

When we came through this section I told you that there are really 3 things that are keeping man from the appointed position that God has for him.

1. Sin
2. Death
3. The Curse

That is where the humanity of Jesus comes in.

Notice Hebrews 2:9

Jesus became a Man and He became our Substitute and on the cross He died for our sins and was buried and on the third day He rose from the grave. Therefore, Jesus became our Substitute to defeat sin, the grave, and the curse.

Now we have this hope that when Jesus returns to set up His Kingdom we will then be given the appointed position which God had originally intended for us to have. In other words we will have all things placed under our feet and we will be restored to our original destiny as kings of the earth.

That is the first blessings we see from the humanity of our Lord. Now let us look at the second again.

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

Part 3

Notice Hebrews 2:10

We have already looked at this verse so I don't want to labor over it again but we do need to be reminded of what is here so we can understand the overall point.

There were several points to be seen for this verse.

- a. The phrase "*it became him*" means the death and the suffering of our Lord which the Father appointed to Him was "FITTING TO GOD'S CHARACTER". In other words the suffering and the death of our Lord magnified the character of our Heavenly Father. It showed forth His:
 1. Love for us.
 2. His grace toward us.
 3. His wisdom.
 4. His righteousness.

Therefore the suffering and the death of our Lord magnified God's character.

- b. **Jesus is the Captain of our salvation.** The word "Captain" is the word "*Archēgos* and it means - one that takes the lead in anything and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer.
- c. Jesus was made perfect through suffering. The words of Ray Stedman best explain these words.

"Imagine that Jesus came on Monday and on Friday they took him out and crucified him, hanging him on the cross, and that he died, just as it is recorded in the Scriptures, bearing the sins of the world. Would he

still have been a perfect Savior? Certainly he would have been perfect as far as bearing our guilt is concerned -- that only required a sinless Savior. But he would not have been perfect as far as bearing our infirmities, our weaknesses, is concerned. He would have been able to fit us for heaven some day, but never able to make us ready for earth right now. In such a case, we could always say (as too often we do say, anyway), "How can God expect me to live a perfect life in my situation? After all, I'm only human and Christ has never been where I am. What does he know of my pressures, what does he know of what I'm up against?" But he was made perfect through his suffering. He does know, he does know!"

The sufferings of our Lord made Him perfect in EXPERIENCE. Now as we go through the storms and the trials of life He knows exactly what we are going through. Let me show you some verses from Hebrews 4 that we will study in depth when we get to them.

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

¹⁵ *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Notice Hebrews 2:11a

This verse will surely bless your spirit when we see what the writer is saying here.

The word "sanctify" means "to make holy". Here in this verse we see that Jesus is the One Who is the "sanctifier" we are the ones who are

"sanctified". This means that we are "made holy" by our Lord. Now I want to spend some time on this because I really want you to get a grasp of what is being said here.

This is not talking about our "practice". There are times when we as believers do not act like "holy" people. We are still a work in progress and in our "practice" we are being sanctified/made holy on a daily basis. But the writer of Hebrews is not talking about our "practice" he is talking about our "position" in Christ.

It breaks my heart when I talk with people who struggle with eternal security. They believe that when they sin they lose their salvation and so it would really be difficult to know when you were saved because we sin every day. But what that belief does is it makes my salvation depend upon how I live my life. Let me just explain to you that our salvation does not depend upon how we live our lives but our salvation depends upon the finished work of Jesus Christ.

According to Hebrews 2:11 we are already "made holy" in Christ.

Colossians 2:10

¹⁰ ***And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:***

In our position "in Christ" we are complete. Now listen to this, since we are "in Christ" the only way we could lose our salvation would be if Jesus Christ was put out of heaven.

Hebrews 10:10-14

¹⁰ ***By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.***

¹¹ *And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:*

¹² *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

¹³ *From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.*

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

These verses make it crystal clear that by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross we have been perfected forever. Don't miss the fact that it was by HIS SACRIFICE and not OUR WORKS!!!!

Notice the words of John Phillips:

"The Lord's finished work on Golgotha prepared the people; in glory today He is preparing the place."

The second half of Hebrews 2:11 shows us how perfect the finished work of our Lord on our behalf really is.

Notice Hebrews 2:11

"For which cause" - This phrase points directly to the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Because His suffering on the cross was the FULL payment for our sins He has accomplished our POSITIONAL sanctification and we are so PERFECT in Him that He is not ashamed to call us brethren.

Let me show you what Paul wrote in Romans 3.

Romans 3:22

²² *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

Paul tells us that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are CLOTHED IN THE OF GOD. That means that when God looks at us He does not see our sin but He sees us covered in His righteousness. That means that the very RIGHTEOUSNESS of our Lord covers you and me. That is the result of our POSITION in Christ. Therefore, the work of Jesus Christ was so complete that it has made us PERFECT in Christ and He is not ashamed of us because we are covered in His righteousness and we are His brothers.

Ephesians 1:4-6

⁴ *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

⁵ *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

⁶ *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

If you are saved it is **not** because of your goodness but it is because of Jesus sacrifice on the cross. We are accepted by God because we are IN Him when we are saved.

There is a beautiful picture of Hebrews 2:11 in the Old Testament.

Remember when Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery? For a few pieces of silver they turned their back on their brother and left him in his tears and they returned home. It was 27 years later that Joseph's brothers felt the pressure of the famine and they came down to Egypt where Joseph was 2nd in command under Pharaoh. Joseph revealed himself to his brothers and they repented. They then moved the entire family down to Egypt and Joseph was not ashamed of his brothers. He brought his brothers before Pharaoh and even though they were

shepherds (who were an abomination in Egypt) they were accepted by Pharaoh, not because of their goodness but because of the work of Joseph. This is a picture of how we are accepted in Jesus Christ because of His work and how He is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters.

Now the writer of Hebrews points back to the Old Testament and he quotes verses from Psalm 22, Psalm 18, and Isaiah 8.

Notice Hebrews 2:12

Here is the quote from Psalm 22. Now we need to know that Psalm 22 is the Psalm of the cross. In the Gospels we read that Jesus was crucified meaning that He was nailed to the cross and He died for our sins. In Psalm 22 however we have recorded the "feelings" of our Lord as He experienced the pain of the cross. The words which the writer of Hebrews quotes from Psalm 22 describe that which Jesus was focused upon as He felt the excruciating pain of the cross.

I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

Here is the verse and we see that as He was suspended on the cross His focus was upon those who would be saved whom He would one day call His brethren. The day Jesus was crucified was a dark day for our Lord but in the midst of the darkness He was able to look to the future when many would come into the family of God because of His work on the cross.

Notice Hebrews 2:13a

Here is the quote from Psalm 18:2. At first look it seems to be a quote that does not fit with the writer's thought but when we understand where the quote was taken from we can see that it fits perfectly.

Psalm 18:2-6

² *The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, **in whom I will trust**; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

³ *I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.*

⁴ *The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.*

⁵ *The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.*

⁶ *In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.*

This was written by David when he was feeling the pressures of his enemies but it also speaks of what Jesus experienced in His sufferings. The reason the writer of Hebrews places this in his writing is because it points to the humanity of Jesus Christ. That is the focus of Hebrews 2:5-18 so the reference fits perfectly. It is a reminder that Jesus has restored our unity with the Father through His sacrifice as a Man.

Notice Hebrews 2:13b

Here is the quote from Isaiah 8. I wish we had more time to look at this but we are limited so I will give you a quick look at what is said here.

This is taken from a text where God tells Isaiah he will father a son and before the son reaches the age of 2 the Assyrians would overtake Israel. This son born to Isaiah was a sign of Isaiah's success as a prophet. In other words that which he prophesied would be fulfilled. Therefore, Isaiah would identify with his sons that God had given him.

In the same way we are the sons/children of God and we are the "proof" that Jesus sacrifice was a success and therefore Jesus identifies with you and me.

Conclusion:

Because of the humanity of our Lord our unity with God has now been restored. Hebrews 2:11 tells us that we are one body with Jesus Christ.