

**"Jesus is Superior because of His Humanity"**

**Hebrews 2:5-18**

**Part 5**

**Introduction:** In our study of the book of Hebrews we have been focused upon chapter 2 now for quite some time. In 2:5-18 the writer is focused upon the "Humanity of our Lord" and he has taken us deep into the depths of God's Word to show to us the blessings which are ours because Jesus became a Man. We have look at 2 of the blessings which the writer presents to us in verses 5-13.

- I. **Jesus became a Man to restore our lost destiny.**
- II. **Jesus became a Man to restore our lost unity.**

Tonight we come to the 3<sup>rd</sup> blessing which we find in this text and there is much to be seen in these closing verses of Hebrews 2.

Before we get into the text tonight I must say that what we shall look at tonight will be something that will be very eye opening. In the text which is before us we will see the reason why it is that people fill their lives with all sorts of entertainment and why it is that many believers are reluctant to commit to serving God with their free time. Tonight's study will provide much insight for us so let's get started.

- III. **Jesus became a Man to set us free from the present bondage.**

**Notice Hebrews 2:14a**

Here we see that because we are partakers of flesh and blood Jesus Himself also took part of the same. His is a reference to the incarnation of our Lord which means that He was born into the human family.

The idea here in this first part of the verse is that Jesus WILLING became a Man in order that He could meet the needs of sinful Man. We have been looking at the Humanity of our Lord for 5 weeks now but I again need to remind you that this is one of the vital doctrines of the Bible. It is a New Testament Truth but it was pictured in the Old Testament. I want to take time and show you the picture because it is absolutely beautiful.

In order to see this we must go back to the Old Testament book of Ruth.

**Ruth 1:1-4**

*Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.*

<sup>2</sup> *And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.*

<sup>3</sup> *And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.*

<sup>4</sup> **And they took them wives of the women of Moab;** *the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.*

Here in these verses we see that when there was a famine in the land of Israel and Elimelech took his family to the land of Moab. While they were in Moab Elimelech died and his 2 sons then married 2 girls from the land of Moab, Orpah and Ruth. Ruth and Orpah were from the land of Moab and for this reason they were cut off from having any part in the Nation of Israel.

### **Deuteronomy 23:3**

<sup>3</sup> *An Ammonite or **Moabite** shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:*

When Naomi heard the famine was over in her home land she chose to return. It was then that Orpah turned back to her old life in the land of Moab but Ruth chose to turn her back on the old life and she desired a new life with Naomi and her God.

### **Ruth 1:14-18**

<sup>14</sup> *And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.*

<sup>15</sup> *And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.*

<sup>16</sup> *And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:*

<sup>17</sup> *Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.*

<sup>18</sup> *When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.*

The 2 women returned back to Bethlehem and they arrived at the time of the barley harvest.

**Ruth 1:22**

*<sup>22</sup> So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.*

Ruth then went to the fields to glean corn from the fields after they were picked. When she went out to glean she "just happened" to come to a field that was owned by a man named Boaz. He showed special favor to her and gave her protection while she was in his fields and he blessed her with much barley to take back to Naomi. Now notice the conversation between Ruth and Naomi when Ruth came back with the gleanings.

**Ruth 2:18-20**

*<sup>18</sup> And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed.*

*<sup>19</sup> And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz.*

*<sup>20</sup> And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, **The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.***

Boaz was from the family of Elimelech therefore he qualified to be the "kinsman redeemer". As the book of Ruth continues Boaz did perform the duties of the "kinsman redeemer" and Ruth became his bride and she was used of God to bring about the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Ruth 4:9-10**

*<sup>9</sup> And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.*

*<sup>10</sup> Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.*

In this story Ruth is a picture of you and me. Because of sin we had no hope in eternity we were cut off from God. But just as Boaz loved Ruth so Jesus Christ loved us and because

Boaz was of the same family he could perform the responsibilities of the "kinsman redeemer". Now in order to be a "kinsman redeemer" Boaz had to meet 3 qualifications:

1. **He had to be willing to pay the price.**

You see the "kinsman redeemer" had to be willing to pay off all debts of the one who was being redeemed.

2. **He had to be able to pay the price.**

It was not enough for someone to DESIRE to be the "kinsman redeemer" they had to be able to pay the full debt.

3. **He had to be of the same family.**

The "kinsman redeemer" had to be of the same family of the one he was going to redeem.

Boaz is a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ as our "Kinsman Redeemer". He was willing to pay the full penalty for our sins. He was able, with His life to pay the sin debt for each one of us. Then finally He became a Man so that He would be of the same family therefore He qualified to be our "Kinsman Redeemer". Jesus was born of woman and He died to pay our sin debt. He then has made us His bride and He will very soon return to take us home to be with Him. We are the Redeemed Bride of Christ.

Let get back to Hebrews again.

### **Notice Hebrews 2:14b**

Here we see another reason why Jesus became a Man. He became a Man so that through death He could DESTROY Satan who had the "power of death".

There are several things which we need to look at here so that we can better understand what the writer is saying.

First of all we must understand the word "destroy". The word "destroy" means to "render powerless". We know that Satan has not yet been destroyed because we can see his power at work in the world today. But to you and me who are believers Satan has been "rendered powerless" in the sense that he can no longer hold us in bondage to fear. That is the idea here. I will show you this as we move through the verses.

The second thing we need to consider is what the writer means when he tells us that Satan had the "power of death". Now this does not mean that Satan can take someone's life when

he desires to. If that were the case then there would be no Christians in this world because Satan hates us and he desires to kill us if he possibly could do so. When the writer tells us Satan had the "power of death" he is referring to how Satan uses the fear of death as a "whip" in the lives of people. Satan uses the fearsomeness of death in order to control people.

Now when I say this I am not just speaking about people being afraid to die although that is something that people do fear. There is something else here.

### Notice Hebrews 2:15

We have been delivered from the fear of death which held us in bondage at one time and it still holds the unsaved world in bondage even today. The fear that is spoken of here is a fear that alters a person's everyday life.

Now there is something here that you are missing which will be the key to understanding what the writer is saying. I came across something that Ray Stedman said and it brought these verses right into view.

Ray Stedman illustrates this very well. He asks: "What is death? Is it not the absence of life?"

*"Someone gets hit by a car, the crowd gathers around and wonders if there is any life left. A doctor may come and examine the body. What does he look for? Evidences of death? No, he looks for evidences of life. If he can find no evidence of life as he searches the body of that person, he finally looks up, and says, "I'm sorry; he's dead." **Death, in all its forms, is absence of life.**"*

Now you must listen and stay with me in order to grasp what I am about to say. The writer of Hebrews is thinking about **death as the absence of life** when he writes these verses. He is not just speaking of the appointed day in which we will die. **But he is writing about a fear that altered our lives on a daily basis.**

But what exactly was the fear? Before we were saved we were so fearful that we were going to miss out on life. We desired to have a life lived to the fullest. That is where Satan comes in; he then fed us a lie in which he had convinced us that if we were busy in life then we would be living life to the fullest extent. So we worked for more money. We bought more stuff. We filled our lives with more entertainment and we did all of this with the desire to not miss any of this life. The bottom line was we were so consumed with all that this world had to offer because we wanted to enjoy life to the fullest.

Therefore we were enslaved to the "fear of death" which really was the "fear of the absence of life" (we were fearful we were going to miss out on life). In other words we were enslaved because we thought the answer to a "life lived to the fullest" was found in what this world had to offer. Satan used this as a "whip" to enslave us.

Then we came to know Jesus Christ and were set free from the bondage of fear of death because we found out that Jesus Christ was the answer to a full life. Understand the cross allowed us to see things in a completely different light. We found fulfillment in Jesus and our eyes were opened to the lies of the Devil. Jesus took the "whip" from the hand of Satan on our behalf. We came to realize that this world is not the answer to a full life but the answer is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The closer we walk with Him the more we realize that this world is all emptiness and the less we hold on to the stuff of the world.

**Conclusion:**

We can see people today who are enslaved to the "fear of death" or in fear of "the absence of life". The unsaved people of today are so busy. Their lives are filled to the top. They sign up for more and more activities. They work more and more hours to make more and more money. Satan is working overtime in the lives of people today. Those with young children are involved in so many activities that they have no time for anything of God. They are so fearful that they will miss something in life. They then pass this on to their children and they grow up with the same desires. This is the result of Satan placing within them the "fear of missing out on life" which is really the "fear of death". That is the "whip" which Satan uses to enslave the unsaved world.

We who are believers can also fall back into this fear if we are not careful. There are many believers who at one time were committed to serving the Lord and then through some trial or opposition they pulled back. Many have turned back to living for the stuff of the world because in their commitment to serve God they felt as though they were missing out on life. This again is the "fear of death" or the "fear of not experiencing life".

There are some verses that all of us need to be reminded of.

**John 10:9-10**

*<sup>9</sup> I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

<sup>10</sup> *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

The answer to the abundant life is Jesus Christ.

### **John 15:1-11**

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

<sup>2</sup> *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

<sup>3</sup> *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

<sup>4</sup> *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

<sup>5</sup> *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

<sup>6</sup> *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

<sup>7</sup> *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

<sup>8</sup> *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

<sup>9</sup> *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

<sup>10</sup> *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

<sup>11</sup> *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

When a person comes to Christ there is no longer a need to fear physical death because it is the gateway to eternity for us. Death has been conquered and the sting of death is gone. Jesus defeated death for us as the Captain of our salvation. Neither is there a need to fear that we are missing out on life when we surrender our lives over to Jesus because He is the "Abundant Life". The "whip" has been removed from the hand of the Devil and his lies have been exposed. The fulfilling life is in Christ not in this world.

So all of this makes me ask a question, "What does this have to do with the humanity of our Lord?"

As a Man He taught us 2 very important truths:

1. We do not need to fear death for it is not the end.

*May 27, 2015*

*Hebrews Study #17*

2. Life is not about what we have but it is about who we serve.