

"The Humanity of Jesus Christ"

Hebrews 2:5-18

Introduction: Tonight, we are stepping away from Galatians to look at a message that is often overlooked and not given much attention. We often hear messages on the Deity of Jesus Christ and that is very important. But the humanity of Jesus is just as important and that is what we are going to see in this study. This is what Christmas is all about, God became a Man and when He did, He will never cease to be a Man for all eternity. But what is the significance of His humanity? That is the question that we are going to answer. Here is something we looked at on Wednesday evening.

Significantly, the first false teaching about Jesus in the days of the early church did not deny that He was God, but it denied that He was really human and said He only seemed to be human. The heresy was called Docetism, coming from the ancient Greek word "to seem," and was taught by Cerinthus, who opposed the apostle John in the city of Ephesus and whose teaching is probably the focus of 1 John 4:2 and 1 John 5:6.

We are going to step into Hebrews chapter 2 where the writer is showing his readers that Jesus is superior to angels.

➤ **Man's Failed Responsibility**

Notice Hebrews 2:5

The angels were never assigned a position to rule over the world to come, which is a reference to the Kingdom and the Eternal State. The Kingdom was the focus of the early church because they looked forward to the time when conditions spoken of by the Old Testament prophets would be brought to pass. The angels instead are ministers to the believers.

Hebrews 1:13-14

¹³ *But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?*

¹⁴ *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*

Notice Hebrews 2:6-8

Here the writer references Psalm 8.

Psalm 8:3-6

³ *When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;*

⁴ *What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*

⁵ *For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.*

⁶ *Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:*

David wrote this Psalm and here in these verses he is looking back to creation when God set Adam up as the theocratic administrator.

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶ *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

²⁷ *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

²⁸ *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

As we have looked at before, it was and is God's desire that He would have a Theocracy. That is that God would rule over the earth from heaven through a man. That is exactly what God established in the beginning. But when sin entered man lost his position as the theocratic administrator.

Notice Hebrews 2:8 again.

At the end of this verse, we see a major problem. God had set man over creation but man sinned and creation was lost to the rule of Satan. Therefore, man is not the theocratic administrator.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

³ *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*

⁴ *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

So, if we are left here, we are forever without hope. John understood this when he wrote Revelation.

Revelation 5:1-4

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

² *And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?*

³ *And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.*

⁴ *And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.*

➤ God's Provision

Notice Hebrews 2:9

Now we see that Jesus is our HOPE because He was made a little lower than the angels so that He would suffer death for every man. This is speaking of the humanity of Jesus Christ. This is a reference to Christmas. He became a Man so that He could die for the sins of man and restore all that was lost in the Garden of Eden. He would be the Sacrifice that God the Father required to be the payment for our sin debt. He would taste death for every man which tells us that salvation is available to all men. Jesus will also be the Theocratic Administrator that will one day rule in the Kingdom. He is our HOPE! Because He took upon Him humanity, He now qualifies to be our sinless sacrifice and He qualifies to rule the Kingdom.

Notice Hebrews 2:10

Here in this verse, we can see the character and the compassion of God toward mankind. The phrase, "It became Him" means "It was just like God" in His character.

- ✓ **For whom are all things** - All of creation is for God.
- ✓ **By whom are all things** - He is the Creator of all things.

Colossians 1:16-17

¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

"In brining many sons into glory," is a reference to God's plan of salvation. In this plan He included that the Captain of our salvation who is Jesus Christ would become "perfect through sufferings." This does not mean that He was not perfect when He was born for, He was. It means that through His sufferings while on the earth He became perfect in experience so that He could identify with us as we too go through sufferings in this life. In this we see another blessing that comes because of the humanity of Jesus Christ. He can relate to us when we face the trials and pressures of this life.

Notice Hebrews 2:11

Jesus is now of the family of mankind. We are all one in the sense that He is human just as we are. Then we are told that He is not ashamed to call us brethren. Jesus Christ, the Creator of the world is not ashamed to identify with us who are sinners. Is it not convicting to us that we are sometimes not as quick to identify with Him? Let me ask a few questions.

- ❖ Are you ashamed to bow your head in a restaurant and thank Him for the food?
- ❖ Are you ashamed to stand for Him when others use His name in vain?
- ❖ Are you ashamed to be seen reading His Word?
- ❖ Are you ashamed to live His Truth when those around you are living for the world?

Notice the words of DeHaan.

"He endured the Cross and despised the shame. He now calls us "brethren." And can it be that we, lifted from the mire and slime of sin should be ashamed of Him, the Altogether Lovely One? How inconsistent for anyone washed in the blood to be ashamed of His Name! How ungrateful to be anything less than our best for Him! How awful to withhold anything of all we are and have from Him! It seems to me that once we realize what He did for us, we would never be satisfied until everything was on the altar for Him."

Notice Hebrews 2:12-13

Here are two Old Testament quotes that support the Truth that He is not ashamed to call us brethren. One is from Psalm 22 and the other is from Isaiah 8.

Notice Hebrews 2:14

Here is another blessing for us because of the humanity of Jesus Christ. He came so that He could destroy the Devil which means to strip him of his power. Here in this verse, we are told that Satan had the power of death. What does this mean?

It does not mean that he has the power to take our lives. He could have that power but only if God permitted him to do so. Many believe this means he has the power to tempt people with sin and when they give in, he can lead them deeper and deeper into sin knowing that the wages of sin is death. This is ultimately seen in the Garden of Eden when Satan tempted Eve and she sinned and gave the forbidden fruit to her husband and the end result was that the entire human race became sinners and came under the death sentence. But we see Jesus who became a man so that He could taste death for every man and thus restore what was lost in the Garden, if they will only believe. Notice the words of Philpot.

"According to our simple views, we might think that all that was needed to overthrow Satan was an act of omnipotent power. But this was not God's way. The king over all the children of pride, in the depths of infinite wisdom, was to be dethroned by an act of the deepest humility, of the most meek and submissive obedience, of the intensest suffering of God's own beloved Son, as standing in the place of those over whom Satan and death had triumphed through sin. We read that 'the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy (literally, 'loosen' or 'untie') the works of the devil.'" Thus he came, not only to untie and undo all that Satan had fastened and done by traversing, as it were, the whole ground, from the first entrance of sin and death, and, by a course of holy and meritorious obedience, repair the wreck and ruin produced by the primary author of all disobedience, but, as the final stroke, to destroy and put down the disobedient and rebellious prince of darkness himself."

Notice Hebrews 2:15

Because Jesus became a Man, He therefore has delivered you and I from the grip and the fear of death. People in this world live in fear and in bondage. Many live life in the fast lane because they are fearful that they might miss something, so the fear of loss keeps them in bondage and their entire life is wasted in an attempt to have the greatest experience.

That bondage is broken when a person repents and turns to Jesus Christ. Life is then put into perspective. We come to understand that what we have here is only temporary and no matter how much it can never give us a fulfilled life. That fulfillment that man looks for is only found in a relationship with Jesus.

Ecclesiastes 2:9-16

⁹ So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

¹⁰ And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.

¹¹ Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

¹² And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what can the man do that cometh after the king? even that which hath been already done.

¹³ Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.

¹⁴ The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all.

¹⁵ Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also is vanity.

¹⁶ For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.

This world is full of frustration and it is not until we die to this world that we can really live. We do not fear death for we know it is but a door into our eternal inheritance.

Conclusion:

Notice Hebrews 2:16-18

Because our Lord became a Man, we now have a High Priestly who can comfort us in all that we face in this life.