

October 14, 2018

- Hebrews 2:5-18 - "The Humanity of Jesus Christ"

Introduction

Hurricane Michael made landfall on Florida's Panhandle Wednesday packing maximum sustained winds of 155 miles an hour. Gov. Rick Scott called it, "the worst storm that the Florida Panhandle has seen in a century." The death toll rose to 18 by Saturday, with people being killed by trees or were washed away in cars in Florida, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia. Residents are beginning to return to assess the damage and start the long, slow road to recovery. Hurricanes are fickle beasts, their projected paths are never certain, their total destruction sometimes not known for days. We are certainly not in control of nature.

We are unable to control the wind, rain and seas. We are at the mercy of nature. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. Even worse, we all age and die. We have lost what God originally intended. That is why Jesus came to earth the creator of all nature. So that in the future he will put everything under the subjection of man. --- **Romans 8:22**

Jewish believers were losing confidence in their Christian faith because they didn't understand Jesus' humanity nor His substitutionary atonement. Therefore, in this section the writer of Hebrews reveals even though Jesus came to earth as a man, He is not inferior to angels. In lesson two we learned Jesus is superior to angels because He is God. However, "confident living" also requires understanding why Jesus came to earth in flesh and blood.

I Christ Came to Restore Us (2:5-9). / Reinstate Us. / Reassure Us

1. The writer begins by stating angels will not control the world to come (2:5). In verses 6-8a, he quotes from Psalm 8:4, asking with the psalmist why God is mindful of man. Then, referring to Psalm 8:5, God created man a little lower than the angels. The writer of Hebrews declares we are temporarily lower than angels. We now have physical bodies while angels have spiritual ones. We are earthbound; angels are not. However, the day is coming when our inferiority to angels will culminate. God will then put all things in subjection under his [man's] feet. (Psalms 8:6b). In the future there will be nothing that God does not place under subjection to man (2: 8b).

2. God's original intention was for human beings to have dominion over all creation. He made man in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:26b). He created us to be like Him, not in appearance but in dominion. Therefore, Genesis 1:26 tell us about man... When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they rejected God's original plan. Therefore since we live in a fallen world, at the present time all things are not under man's dominion (2:8c).

3. He willingly became lower than the angels, subjecting him to a physical body and being earthbound expose to earth fragilities for a while. Yet, now He is crowned with glory and honour because He suffered death (2:9a-b).

4. The most tragic consequence of sin entering the world is death. **Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: Romans 5:12** God warns Adam about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He tells Adam what will happen if he eats of it in Genesis 2:17... When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they instantly became spiritually dead in sin (Eph. 2:1) and their bodies began to die.

5. However, the Cross broke the curse and defeated the power of death. Jesus' primary reason for coming to earth to die is found here in Hebrews 2:9c ...that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.''

II Christ Came to Reinststate Us. (2:10-15).

1. When the human race was wrecked by sin, we lost our family relationship with God. Because of who God is, it was fitting to make **the captain of our salvation perfect [complete] through sufferings (2:10)**. Nothing is as special and fulfilling as being part of a family. On the other hand, nothing can make us feel as lonely and deserted as not having a family. Jesus came so through Him many sons, or children, of God could come to glory, or heaven (2:10), Galatian 3:26 John 1:12 tells us how...

2. Jesus is the One who sanctifies us; therefore, they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren (2:11). The word sanctifies means to make one holy. This is a reference to positional holiness, not practical holiness. In practice, we are far from being holy. However, as with positional holiness God never sees us outside of Christ. God made Jesus, who knew no sin ... (2 Cor. 5:21).

3. The author of Hebrews quoting Psalm 22:22, writes that the Messiah will proclaim God's name to His brothers. He will sing praise to God in the midst of the church (2:12). Then, quoting Isaiah 8:17-18, the author amplifies the previous verse by writing that Jesus will praise God with the children which God hath given Him (2:13b). We are Jesus' brothers and sisters because of the common righteousness we have in Him. Romans 3:22- express this fact. 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:

4. Jesus became a human being, sharing in our flesh and blood, because only then could He experience death and destroy him that had the power of death, who is Satan. Jesus delivers us from bondage to the fear of death (2:15). If we are in Christ, when we die we simply change addresses and move to a much better place. Therefore, we can confidently declare what Psalm 23:4 declares! We no longer need to fear death. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we know there is life after death. Instead of fearing death, we can say with Paul to die is gain (Phi. 1:21).

This is because Jesus came to earth to reinstate us as brothers and members of God's family.

Jesus came to restore us, to reinstate us, and also ...

III Christ Came to Reassure Us (2:16-18).

1. Jesus didn't come to die for angels but for the descendants of Abraham and all those Abraham was to bless; Galatians 3:29 verify this truth.

To bring about salvation, it was necessary for Jesus to be made in every way like His brethren (2:17a). Jesus didn't just look human; He was human in all things, except He never sinned. He became totally human so He could be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God. He became our High Priest to make reconciliation (atonement) for our sins (2:17b). By becoming human in every way, Jesus experienced every feeling we will ever have and more. He was tempted, mistreated, abused, lied about, rejected, betrayed, beaten, and even killed.

2. Also, because our Lord was tempted, He is able to help us when we are tempted (2:18). Regular temptation is not a possibility; it is a certainty in the Christian life. When we are tempted, Jesus is our merciful and faithful high priest who helps us. There are no new temptations because all temptations are common. Our High Priest is not some impersonal, cosmic force that is indifferent to our needs. Our High Priest is the sympathizing Jesus, who knows our hurts, pain, weaknesses, and the strong appeal of our temptations.

When we are tempted, God is faithful and will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can resist. With every temptation God also provides a way of escape so that you never have to yield to it. All is in place for you to experience victory over every temptation. **(1 Cor, 10:13).**

You will never face a temptation so strong that God has not made complete provision for you to overcome it. God, out of His love, has done everything necessary for you to be victorious whenever you face temptation.

God in His infinite love, however, has done even more to safeguard you from temptation. He has allowed Himself to suffer the full brunt of temptation. The very Son of God humbled Himself, taking on all the limitations of frail human flesh, and was tempted in every way that we are. Jesus knew what it was like to grow tired, to be hungry to experience the same limitations we have; yet He was without sin.

It is to Christ that we turn when we are facing temptation. God is not an unsympathetic he is unconcerned with our struggle to live righteously. God knows how difficult it is to resist sin and withstand temptation. We can approach Christ with confidence, knowing that He understands our dilemma. He knows how to aid us when we are tempted.

Conclusion:

Dear friend, only Christ and His sacrifice on the cross can redeem your soul. Two thousand years ago, Jesus went to a cross to bear the penalty that rightly belonged to us. He died in our place. Through Him, our names are written in the Lambs book of life. Are you written in God's book?