

Hebrews

Our Perfect and Only Savior (Part 1)

Hebrews 2:9-10

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Hebrews 2:9-10 (NASB95)

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INTRODUCTION:

In our passage of scripture this morning we have God's own statement concerning the identity of our Savior Jesus Christ. In fact, the writer lays out for us five perfections of Jesus that prove to us that He is **Our Perfect and Only Savior!**

The five things that make Him our perfect savior is...

- 1) He is Our Substitute.
- 2) He is the Author of Our Salvation.
- 3) He is Our Sanctifier.
- 4) He is Our Conqueror Over Death.
- 5) He is Our Supporter.

This morning, Lord willing, we will begin the first of two parts concerning our savior, Jesus Christ.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Hebrews 2:9-10 (NASB95)

⁹ But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, *namely*, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

Prayer

There have been many throughout history and even some today who claim to be the Savior of the world. But only one qualifies, and that one is Jesus Christ. He proves Himself here to be the only Savior and the only one who can save us from our sins. He can rescue us from eternal punishment by separating us from the curse that is on us because of our disobedience of the God's commands. God chose to send Jesus Christ to us to become our He is our perfect and only Savior. There is no one else.

The first reason Jesus Christ is our perfect and only Savior is because He became our substitute. We see that in verse 9 of our text.

BODY:

I. He is Our Perfect Savior Because He is Our Substitute.

Hebrews 2:9 (NASB95)

⁹ But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, *namely, Jesus*, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

We have already looked at how and why Jesus was made for a little while lower than the angels. His nature was not changed. He is always the eternal God, the second person of the Trinity. But He was for a little while made lower; for actually thirty-three years He was made lower than the angels. He had always been higher than the angels. He is, after all, the Creator of the angels. He is the Ruler of the angels. He is the one worshiped by the angels and the one served by the angels. But for a little while, He became lower than the angels. And when you go lower than the angels, you come to humanity. That means He took upon Himself the form of a man. So, although He was infinitely greater than the created holy angels, He became less than the angels for a little while. That is proven by the fact that He did something angels cannot do, and that is, He died. And in the end, as we will see, it made Him all the more glorious.

Philippians 2:8 (NASB95)

⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Jesus died. The author of Hebrews suggests that Christ's humiliation was not just "because of His death", it says, "because of the **suffering** of death."

So when we think about Jesus as the substitute, we have to remember that He, as God above the angels, became for a little while lower than the angels. He came to this world to live among men in the form of man to do what no angel has ever done, and that is to do what only men do. And that is to die.

Satan wanted to humiliate Him. The leaders of Israel wanted to humiliate Him. The Romans wanted to humiliate Him. The people who cried for His blood wanted to humiliate Him. But the fact of the matter was that hanging on the cross had the opposite effect. It became the means by which He was "**crowned with glory and honor**".

Jesus is the perfect Savior. He became a substitute for us and died on the cross taking on our sins. In other words, "**He tasted death for everyone**". That is the heart of the Christian gospel. The word "**tasted**" is probably used here because His experience of dying lasted only a matter of hours. And because His death took only a few hours, we do not have to experience it forever.

The scriptures tell us that the penalty for sin is death. That is why God warned Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of good and evil.

Genesis 3:1-7 (NASB95)

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, **God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'**" ⁴ The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was

desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

You see, Adam and Eve were innocent of sin until they ate of the tree. Satan's claim that they would not die was only a half truth. They did not physically die on the spot, but they did understand that they had sinned and thus had spiritually died on the spot by knowing good and evil. And their **physical** death was set in place. They would no longer be eternal beings on the newly created earth.

Much of what God did prior to Jesus' ministry was to foreshadow this concept and present it as the purpose of the Messiah. In **verse 21 of Genesis chapter 3**, God uses animal skins to cover the Adam and Eve's nakedness. This is the first reference to a death (in this case, an animal's) being used to cover, or atone for, sin. And then God instituted animal sacrifices in the temple to atone for man's sin. But we know that the blood of animals were not able to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:1-4 (NASB95)

¹⁰ For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. ² Otherwise, **would they not** have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? ³ But in those *sacrifices* there is a reminder of sins year by year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Mankind was in need of a savior who **could**, once and for all, take away our sins. And that is the good news of the Gospel.

Romans 6:23 (NASB95)

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

That verse teaches us several things. Without Christ, we are going to die and spend an eternity separated from God as payment for our sins. Death in the scriptures refers to a "separation." Everyone will die, but some will live in heaven with the Lord for eternity, while others will live a life separated from God for eternity. The death spoken of here refers to the life of separation from God. However, the second thing this verse teaches us is that eternal life is available through Jesus Christ. This is His substitutionary atonement.

Jesus Christ died in our place when He was crucified on the cross. We deserved to be the ones placed on that cross to die because we are the ones who lived the sinful lives. But Christ took the punishment on Himself in our place—He **substituted** Himself for us and took what we rightly deserved.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB95)

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Peter 2:24 (NASB95)

²⁴ and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Here we see that Christ took the sins we committed onto Himself to pay the price for us. He was the reality of the foreshadowing that the animal sacrifices pointed to. A few verses later we read...

1 Peter 3:18 (NASB95)

¹⁸ For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the just for the unjust*, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

Not only do these verses teach us about the substitute that Christ was for us, but they also teach that He was the atonement, meaning He satisfied the payment due for the sinfulness of man.

One more passage that foretold of the substitutionary atonement is found in Isaiah. This would be very convincing for the Jews that received this letter. It talks about the coming Christ who was to die on the cross for our sins. The prophecy is very detailed, and the crucifixion happened just as it was foretold.

Isaiah 53:5 (NASB95)

⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell upon Him*, And by His scourging we are healed.

We can only pay the price of sin on our own by being punished and placed in hell for all eternity. But God's Son, Jesus Christ, came to earth to pay the price of our sins. Because He did this for us, we now have the opportunity to not only have our sins forgiven, but to spend eternity with Him. In order to do this, we must place our faith in what Christ did on the cross. We cannot save ourselves; we need a substitute to take our place. The death of Jesus Christ is the substitutionary atonement.

II. He is Our Perfect Savior Because He is the Author of Our Salvation.

There's another wonderful way to view Him as our perfect Savior, and that is not only as our substitute, but **as the Author of Our Salvation.**

Hebrews 2:10 (NASB95)

¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

The phrase "*For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory*" primarily refers to God the Father, though it obviously refers to the Son as well. "*It was fitting*" means that what God did through Jesus Christ was consistent with His Character. It was consistent with God's wisdom. The cross was a masterpiece of wisdom. God solved the problem which no human or angelic mind could ever have solved. What He did was also consistent with His holiness, for God showed on the cross His hatred for sin. It was consistent with His power, being the greatest display of power ever manifested. Christ endured for a few hours what would take an eternity for unrepentant sinners to endure. It was consistent with His love, in that He loved the world so much that He gave His only Son for its redemption. Finally, what He did was consistent with His grace, because Christ's sacrifice was substitutionary. The

work of salvation was totally consistent with God's nature. It was entirely "fitting for Him" to have done what He did.

Now I want you to notice that little title there, "the **author of their salvation**". The word basically refers to somebody who begins something. It also means a pioneer, somebody who opened up a new territory, somebody who opened up a new land so others could follow. It is a word that could refer to a trailblazer, somebody who blazed a trail on which others could then come.

It is not somebody standing at the rear giving orders; it is somebody at the front blazing the trail, opening the gates, and starting a new city, leading to a new country, a new land, a new way of life, and a new level of life. It is somebody who literally invents the wheel, somebody who begins something that others can use.

And He is the **trailblazer** of what our what? **Salvation**. It is Jesus who alone authored salvation. He is the trailblazer who opened the trail to God. He is the founder of the heavenly city. He threw the gates open and invited us to come in. He is the one that began the family, as it were, the children of God, and who brings us into that family. He is the one who inaugurated a new kind of life, and ushers us into that life to be enjoyed forever.

We see that it was fitting to God through the suffering of Christ to bring "many sons to glory" and to perfect the "author" of their salvation through sufferings." Wow!

Christ's death perfectly fit into God's plan, because He wanted to bring many, many sons to glory. It fit into God's plan for Jesus to blaze the trail, to open the city, to bring the new life, to inaugurate the family **through suffering**.

Now that tells us more about salvation. Salvation is not just the forgiveness of sin; it is a new city, it is a new life, it is a new family, it is a new land, it is a new everything. And Jesus blazed the trail into that newness of life, and He did it by being perfected through suffering. God made His Son for a little while lower than the angels, brought Him down into the realm of humans, so that He could do what no angel has ever done or will ever do: die, die in our place as our substitute. And by that death become the trailblazer who would open the path of salvation, and lead us to God and to eternal glory.

Hebrews 5:9 (NASB95)

⁹ And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

He alone is the trailblazer. He alone is the leader who brings us to God. What a great Savior!

CONCLUSION:

So what have we learned thus far?

This is our Savior. He did not just come and die. He did not just arrive on a cloud, and die, and go back on a cloud. He was hungry, thirsty, weary, sad, angry, grieved, brokenhearted, troubled, overcome by current events, and overcome by the anticipation of future events. He sighed when He saw a lame person or a mute person. He wept when His heart ached. He was misjudged. He was rejected, hated, beaten, and finally executed.

Hebrews 4:15 (NASB95)

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.

He understands us. He knows what we need. He knows how to help us. What a perfect Savior! He is the substitute Who paid our penalty for sin. A trailblazer who opened the way to heaven. We can be called brothers. And we both call God "Father". He became man so He could be tempted at every point like we are tempted, and even more powerfully than we could ever imagine, and yet He never sinned. He knows what temptation is like, and knows how to be there to strengthen us and to provide all that we need.

There has not been or ever will be any other savior in the world like this. It is the greatest news the world will ever know. It is the greatest message that our ears have ever heard, because this is the greatest need that human beings have: to escape eternal punishment and enter eternal joy.

Jesus is our perfect and only Savior; there is no other than Jesus Christ!

And the question I ask of you today is, "**Is He your Savior?**"

Since the just penalty for sin is never-ending, only God could pay the penalty, because only He has no beginning and no end. God, in His divine nature, could not die. So God became a human being in the person of Jesus Christ. God took on human flesh, lived among us, and taught us. When the people rejected Him and His message, and sought to kill Him, He willingly sacrificed Himself for us, allowing Himself to be crucified. Because Jesus Christ was human, He could die; and because Jesus Christ was God, His death had an eternal value. Jesus' death on the cross was the perfect and complete payment for our sin. He took the consequences we deserved. Jesus' resurrection from the dead demonstrated that His death was indeed the perfectly sufficient sacrifice for sin.

So...**What must you do to be saved?**

The Philippian jailer asked the same question many years ago when an earthquake came and caused all of the doors of the jail to be opened and the prisoners chains were unfastened. When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors open he drew a sword to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. Then listen to what happened.

Acts 16:28-33 (NASB95)

²⁸ But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!"

²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, "**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**"

³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.

³³ And he took them that *very* hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household*.

Jesus' death on the cross will never have an effect on you until you are willing to believe and follow His commands. If you are in need of an eternal savior, won't you come forward and accept Him into your life?

He is Lord.