

Hebrews

Our Perfect and Only Savior (Part 2)

Hebrews 2:11-18

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CONCLUSION:

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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 a portrait of Jesus that proves to us that He is **Our Perfect and Only Savior!**

The perfections that make Him so are given to us in our scripture text.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Hebrews 2:11-18 (NASB95)

¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying,

"I will proclaim Your name to My brethren, In the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise."

¹³ And again, "I will put My trust in Him."

And again, "Behold, I and the children whom God has given Me."

¹⁴ Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. ¹⁶ For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Prayer

Last week we heard the first two reasons that Jesus Christ is our perfect and only Savior. He is Our Substitute (He died for our sins and paid the price to have our sins removed) and secondly He is the author of our salvation. This morning, Lord willing, we will see how **He is Our Sanctifier, Our Conqueror over Death, and our Supporter.**

BODY:

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

Hebrews 2:11 (NASB95)

11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Sanctification is the process of making one Holy. That means that we are made righteous or free from sin. **Jesus is the sanctifier and we are the sanctified.** Jesus literally made us holy.

How did He do that?

By living a perfectly righteous life and then paying the penalty for **our** sins on the cross as our substitute. God took His righteousness and covered us with it. That is how He sanctified us. It does not mean that we are sinless now, it simply means God **treats us** as if we are. That is because our sins have all been paid for, and the righteousness of Christ has been credited to our account.

When God looks at you, He sees the perfect life of Christ. So it is Christ's perfect righteousness applied to you that makes Him the sanctifier and you the sanctified. Our sins are paid for and the vengeance of God for our sins has been settled. The righteousness of Christ is applied to our lives as if it were our own. And God treats us as if we are holy, because we are covered by the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ.

We are not in practice what we are in position. Positionally before God, we are holy. But in practice we are still falling short of righteousness. But God has **declared** us holy. That is because of the perfect work of Jesus Christ.

But notice this: "**For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father***". This tells us that the sanctification of Christ and **our** sanctification comes from the same source, namely from one Father, God. We literally share the very righteousness of God with Christ! This would be most astonishing to the Jews to whom this letter was written.

And to make it even more impactful, **verse 11** continues..."**for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren**".

"He" – being Christ – "is not ashamed to call us brothers." Amazing! We would be called brothers because we share the same life and righteousness from the Father. We are, as Romans 8 says, "**joint heirs with Christ**". He is not ashamed to call us brothers. He is the Son of God, and we have become sons of God covered by His very righteousness. And in that sense, we are His brothers.

Some Jewish people might say, "Well, this is certainly foreign to the Old Testament." So, just to solve that problem, verses 12 and 13 quote two passages from the Old Testament to show that even in the Old Testament the Messiah anticipated such a brotherhood.

Hebrews 2:12-13 (NASB95)

12 saying, "I will proclaim Your name to My **brethren**, In the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise."

13 And again, "I will put My trust in Him."

And again, "Behold, I and the children whom God has given Me."

Verse 12 is from Psalm 22.

Psalm 22:22 (NASB95)

22 I will tell of Your name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

The Son of God says to the Father that He is going to "**tell of Your name to My brethren**". This indicates that there would be those who would be brothers of the Messiah as far back as to the time of David. It is because of His death on the cross that He can call us brothers.

John MacArthur made an interesting observation. Before Jesus died on the cross, He never called His followers brothers. He called them disciples, He called them friends, He called them sheep, but He never called them brothers. But when He died and came out of the grave, the first thing He said when He came out of the grave to Mary was, "Go to My brothers." It is only possible to be a brother of Jesus Christ when sin has been paid for and when His righteousness has been credited to your account.

Then verse 13 is taken out of Isaiah the prophet.

Isaiah 8:17-18 (NASB95)

17 And I will wait for the Lord who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob; I will even look eagerly for Him. (That is the trust part) **18 Behold, I and the children whom the Lord has given me** are for signs and wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

When the Messiah came into this world, He trusted the Lord in the time of His incarnation (when He became man); we trust the Lord as well. And so we are alike. We are the children whom God has given Him to be identified as His brothers.

II. He is Our Perfect Savior Because He is Our Conqueror over Death.

But even that would not have been complete. There is a fourth element of His portrait concerning His perfection as our Savior: **He wiped out our fear of death that Satan was using against us.**

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NASB95)

14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

Death is the great, great fear of man. And verse 15 says Satan has held men in slavery to the fear of death all their lives. People are terrified by death. Why? Because it is so final. And it is a weapon that Satan uses. It is called "the power of death".

Power is the word for "dominion". His real dominion over the world is the power of death. You may wonder why? It is because when somebody dies they are cast into eternal punishment. Now Satan would prefer that no one understand that.

Satan rebelled against God because of pride. Satan wanted to be God. He did not want to worship God, he wanted to be worshiped. So, Satan rebelled and became the fallen angel we now know as the devil. By getting Adam and Eve to sin in the Garden of Eden, he became a God in that he gained control over the earth and he caused Adam and Eve to

face death. He wants the world to stay under his control, so he does everything in his power to keep men under his reign.

Ephesians 2:1-7 (NASB95)

2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

If the devil can just hold men in sin, if he can just continue to work the world's system so that it keeps men captive; if he can continue to be the ruler of the darkness of this world, the prince of the power of the air, then they eventually die and Satan will be their god eternally separated from God the Father. Satan's hold on men is death; and no one escapes it. It is appointed unto men once they die, and after that is judgment.

Well, that had to be conquered. There had to be a way for the power of death held by Satan to be broken. There was no death, you remember, in the original creation, right? If Adam and Eve had not sinned, they would not have died. Satan really then brought man into the realm of death, and he has maintained a dominion over that, although subject to the power of God.

God has allowed him to maintain that dominion; but God has broken the power of death. And how did He do it? Let's reread verse 14:

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NASB95)

¹⁴ Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

What happened is Jesus had to become a man and meet Satan on his own ground. Satan's dominion is in the form of death. He is a killer; he was a murderer from the beginning the scriptures say. By dying as a man, Jesus entered into death; and when He got there, He destroyed death by raising from the grave, and He destroyed the dominion of Satan.

Now, for the believer, death has no fear, right? **Death is an entrance into heaven!** That is why Paul said, "**For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.**" By dying, Jesus met death and conquered it. He had to do that.

The perfect Savior had to conquer death. And so for us, though we will die physically, that is simply the exit that leads us into the glorious presence of God and the wonders of eternal heaven. We have no fear of death, for we can say with the apostle Paul,

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 (NASB95)

⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; ⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus conquered death. And so by dying as a man, He met death on a human level and destroyed it, and took away the power that Satan had. The fear of death is a potent force to unbelievers, but for believers It is simply the path to eternal glory.

III. He is Our Perfect Savior Because He is Our Supporter.

Finally, Jesus is our perfect Savior because His is our supporter. This completes the portrait.

Hebrews 2:16 (NASB95)

¹⁶ For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.

Do you know why He does not need to give help to angels? This is referring to holy angels, of course. It is because they are eternal spirits, living in eternal perfection. They do not need help. Now humans...that is another story. Because of the fall, we need help.

You say, “Well, I thought you said we were already made holy, we were already made sanctified.” Yeah, that is true **positionally** because God has **declared** us righteous through Jesus Christ. He has taken away our sins. But in reality, we are weak, and we are frail and fragile, and we need help. And so He says He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendants of Abraham.

Now, he is writing here, of course, to Hebrews (or Jews). Not only could we interpret that the descendant of Abraham is a physical descendant of Abraham. But the scriptures tell us that there is no longer any distinction between Jews and Gentiles.

Galatians 3:26-29 (NASB95)

²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.

In other words, He helps people who come to Him and believe.

Now, how is He going to help us? Well, we need help in our temptations, don’t we? Everything that goes wrong in life goes wrong because we were tempted and acted upon that temptation. If we could just be unaffected by temptation, we would not have any problems. We need strength at the right moment, grace at the right moment, mercy at the right moment, and wisdom at the right moment. And that is what Christ does for us. But in order to do that, verse 17 says,

Hebrews 2:17 (NASB95)

¹⁷ Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

If He is going to give us help, He had to be made like His brother in all things.

All of the temptations that come to a child, He experienced as a child. All the temptations that come to an adult, He experienced. Especially the temptations that came towards the end of His ministry when everything was leading to the cross when men were plotting to kill Him and people were betraying Him and turning on Him. It went all the way through physical abuse, and finally to execution. These were tremendous burdens that tested His faith to do what God wanted Him to do in the midst of all that suffering. Matthew records the intensity of His suffering when Jesus was praying in the garden.

Matthew 26:39b (NASB95)

... “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”

He was feeling the tremendous burden of this suffering. And that was by God’s design. You could have God sending Jesus into the world and letting Him die on the cross and then just returning Him back to heaven. So why all the pain and suffering? Why all the grief, the hatred, the rejection, the bitterness, the hunger, the thirst, the disappointment, and tears? It was so He could experience, as a man, what life is really like.

You might argue, “But He could not sin.” And that would be right. But that does not mean that He could not feel the temptation. And because He never gave in to the temptation, it means that He was willing to take the full fury of God's wrath for us. And that is why He can "**come to the aid of those who are tempted**".

Hebrews 2:18 (NASB95)

¹⁸ For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Jesus is going to be able to know what we need when we are tempted because He has already experienced it for Himself.

CONCLUSION:

And that is the portrait of our perfect Savior. Jesus became a **substitute** for us by dying on the cross for our sins and paid the price to have our sins removed.

He is the **author of our salvation**. He was the trailblazer, if you will, of our salvation. He blazed the trail for a newness of life, and He did it by being perfected through suffering.

He is our **sanctifier**. It was through Him that we were made Holy. Our sins were wiped away and we received His righteousness.

He was our **conqueror over death**. He wiped out our fear of death that Satan was using against us by living a perfect life and raising from the dead.

And finally He is our **supporter**. He became man and faced temptation in order to experience, as a man, what life is really like and be able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

What an amazing savior!

He is Lord.