

Title: Welcome To The Family (Part 2)

Text: Hebrews 2:14-18

Take your Bibles and turn to Hebrews chapter 2. We will continue in our series. There are notes in your bulletins and we invite you to follow along with us as we study out of the most kosher book in the N.T. The book of Hebrews.

In chapter 2 we are still in that section dealing with Christ's authority over angels. In which the writer is setting out to prove that fact that He is greater than all the angels.

And we have seen this in several ways to the very motives of the heavenly Father towards His son. Which was described in chapter 1. Also, in the message of salvation, itself, which was first spoken by our Lord. Then confirmed under the Apostles by wonderful signs, wonders, and miracles. And we heard then, and we know one thing..the priority of the Lord. He stated it. So, he is greater than the angels in that area.

We, also, learned in chapter 2 verses 5 to 8 that He is greater than the angels in the manner in which all things are subjected to him. He is in complete control of everything. And the whole world is going to, one day, sense His dominion and kingship. As a real literal kingdom will be established on the earth with Jesus reigning in all things put under his feet.

Now, we have entered another area. And that is, ^(4c) HIS MINISTRY IN OUR BEHALF. Which began at verse 9 and goes through verse 18. And once again we see that Jesus is far superior than the angels in terms of His ministry for us. We have examined that in a couple of ways. ^(1D) One, we have looked at it in His purpose in coming into the world. No angel ever did this. By the grace of God He tasted death for every person. He came into the world to die. ^(2D) Secondly, we have seen in His ministry in our behalf that He is greater than angels by our position in God's family. Which we dealt with last week, 'That God does have a family. That God is a family God. The tri-unity of God. The Father, the Son, And he wants to bring many sons into glory. Which He does through Jesus.

(3) Now, we come to the third area under His ministry. Which proves that Jesus is greater than angels. And that is seen in his power over death. And this begins with Verse 14. Would you please follow along in your Bibles.

(Read Heb. 2:14-18)

(PRAYER)

As we look at this matter of His power over death there is no question He is greater than any angel. And there are four things that I would like you to see here in verese 14 thru 16.

(1) First of all, deals with His participation in the experinece of humanity
It was absolutely necessary in order for him to have power over death, He had to participate in the experience of humanity.

Vs 14 says, "Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He himself likewise also partook of the same."

You will find that expression "flesh and blood" used 5 time. Although in different order. Two times it says "blood and flesh" in the text. And three times it says "Flesh and blood."

And some like to refer to this difference as one indicating fallen humanity. And the other indicating simple physical substance.

I do think it is interesting in the 5 times the expression occurs, that in the case of fallen humanity it is expressed one way. But in the case of Christ it is expressed another way. And maybe that is an important distinction. The fact being that Jesus Christ, although He was human, yet He was not as we are, bacially with a sin nature.

As a matter of fact, in this text there is also an interesting difference in the word partake. In the first one, Hebrews 2:14

There is an interesting comparison in Vs 14 that is often overlooked. Notice Vs 14 where it says "Children share in flesh and blood." The word "share is usually translated "fellowship." And the word "fellowship" means "that which we share in common."

Now, I think it is interesting that the writer did not use that word "share" of Jesus Christ.. He used a word translated "partook." "He himself also partook of the same."

And this is important because it points out another distinction to be made concerning the person of Christ. There is a difference in sharing exactly the same nature of man, including his own sin nature, There is a difference between that and being all man and yet apart from sin. Yousee, the Bible is very clear on the fact that Jesus Christ had not sin at all in his life. He absolutely did not sin nor did He have a sin nature.

Tested..YES...God cannot be tested to do evil, however. It was totally impossible for Jesus to sin. That does not mean that a temptation cannot be vailed. A testing can be very vailed. It can be vailed without sinning. All of us are being tested in many different ways in which we also experience solicitation to do evil. But, Christ did not. He was man. But it was not exactly like we are. That is He had no sin nature.

As to nature, substance, and essences in that human flesh, the Bible teaches that He was God. I Tim 3:16 says "great is the mystery of godliness." God manifested in the flesh.

Or, we find in John 1:1.."In the beginning was the word, and the Word was God." Vs 14.."And the Word became flesh.'

He changed condition, literally. He wasn't flesh as we are. He became it. He took on the fashion of a man says Philipians 2:7. Christ literally was man in every way except ..He did not have an old sin nature.

It was necessary for Christ to deminstrate his power over death. To participate in the experience of humanity. He knows what we go through. he experienced it. He had to pay the pentality in the flesh.

(2) The second thing that I want you to see about his power over death is His purpose in becomeing man as stated in Vs 14. It says, following this statement of his partaking of flesh, "that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil."

His purpose in becoming man, according to this text, is to number one to die. And number two to defeat the devil. Who the Bible says has the power of death. Now, that might be a strange thing to you because in Hebrews chapter 9:27 it says: "it is appointed for men to die once."

The Bible, also, teaches in the books of Job and Psalms that the Almighty is controlling death. Now, this text says that the devil has the power of death. I do not believe that the interpretation means that the devil is deciding who is going to die. NO WAY! That is God's decision. You die on time, always. I think tht is good. Youought to write that down. Just in case you die today, it ought to be an incouragement to you. (ha)

Everyone dies on time. It is appointed unto men once to die. And that is a wonderful hope and encouragement to the Christian. When you are absent from the body you are present with the Lord. Nothing to worry about anyway. Of course if you are not one of his, you have a lot to worry about. But everyone dies on time. And God is control of that.

So, what does this mean? It is refering to the fact that by sin and rebellion against God he has the power of death. WHY? He is the one who tempted Adam and Eve. He is the one who continually seeking everyone to do evil. And the devil, therefore, in a sense because of sin is having an authority and power in the issue of death. Because the wages of sin is death. Everything the devil does leds to death. Not live. But death.

Anything he tempts you to do does not led to your happiness, and to your joyfull anticipation of eternal life. No! It leds to death. And his power over death is basical in the area of sin. Sin that leds to death.

And that is way when Christ died on the cross, He died, and acturally defeated the enemy at the cross. Defeated Him. The Bible says that He might destroy the devil. And people look at that and say, "well, Jesus didn't win."

I mean, after all, he died on the cross. It says through death He might destroy it. But it looks like He did do it. It looks like He didn't accomplish it in totality.

Now, if you will look at this verse carefully, you will notice that what Christ did at the cross was render the devil "powerless." You see, the devil is still around. He hasn't been destroyed. He is very much alive. And the Bible tells Christians to resist the devil. He is very much alive. But, at the cross Jesus rendered him powerless. And that dear friends is a beautiful thing. Do you know that the moment I put my faith in Jesus Christ, that he died on the cross for my sins, it renders the devil powerless over me. Do you know how the devil actually controls you? Through the avenue of sin.

But, if you accept Christ's death at the cross as your substitute. ~~And~~ He paid for all the penalty of sin, then there isn't anyway that the devil has any control over you. Hay! That is pretty wonderful, isn't it?

Now, a lot of people say, "Hay! wait a minute. Doesn't it tempt the christian." OH, YES! But, greater is He that is in you, then he who is in the world.

Half of our problem is that we have not realized that we have over come him by the blood of the lamb. NOT WE SHALL..SOME DAY OVERCOME. But, NO..the truth is that we now have overcome the devil. He has no power.

I like the way Jose McDowel puts it. We have been crucified, we have been co-buried, we have been co-accented, we are at the right hand of the Father. The devil has no chance. He is defeated. We are victorious. We are in Christ. We are in Hi. There is no way that He has any power over us.

And yet Christians walk around like we are absolutely helpless in front of the devil. Oh, we are. But not in the power of Christ. We are victorious. In the flesh, yes. But not in Christ. We are victorious. And the devil was defeated.

John 12:31 Jesus said, "now, the prince of this world is judged."

The devil received his death blow at the cross. He is a defeated enemy. And we need to claim by faith that victory.

The Bible says that this is the victory that over comes the world. Even our faith. Our faith in christ.

In Revelation 12 it tells us how those tribulation saints are going to defeat the enemy. HOW? They are killed. So, how do they defeat Him? By the blood of the lamb.

Listen, Satan has no victory over the Christian because of one great fact. And that is the resurrection. According to the Bible, when Jesus arose from the dead, the devils hope of every stopping God's purposes were absolutely smashed into the ground.

And the Bible says in I Cor 15 of believers, "O Death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. Because by the law is the knowledge of sin. "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Listen, the devil is defeated, dear friends. And I think it is about time we started rejoicing in the Lord. Getting excited about what we have. The Bible says very clearly: "through death, the cross, he rendered the devil powerless." Powerless.

My faith in Jesus Christ means the devil is defeated. One day I shall arise from the dead, no matter when I die, whatever the time is, listen, death has no hold over me. Absent from the body, present with the Lord. One day when Jesus comes back, I am going to rise from the dead because Jesus arose from the dead. He defeated the enemy. Praise the Lord.

No angel did that. Jesus is greater than the angels. Did you see the point as the author continues to just reveal the power of Jesus? I know that the angels don't have power over Satan. WHY? Because he took a third of them with him. Remember? We call them demons. Fallen angels. Jesus is a lot greater. He defeated the enemy. Rendered him powerless.

(3) Third, notice His power to deliver in verse 15. It says, "and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.: Boy that is a precious statement.

By the way the little word "deliver" is the word "divorce." How about that? To divorce. And the word "divorce" meant to "be released from a contract."

It was used, also, in areas other than marriage. Being released from a contract. Now, look at that again. Jesus delivered those. He divorced them. He broke the contract. What was binding on us? What was binding on us was our sin leading to death. The wages of sin is death. Christ divorced us from the consequences of our sin. By receiving him as saviour. And therefore the fear was removed. Isn't that great? Perfect love cast out fear, says the Bible.

Paul wrote to Timothy (2 Tim 1:7) "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind."

Nothing to be afraid of when know the truth about the resurrection. You know that Jesus has given us the victory. WHAT ARE WE AFRAID OF? People all the way through life are subject to bondage when they are afraid of dying. What an awful way to live. As Paul wrote in I Cor 15:19, "If we have only hope in Christ in this life, we are of all men most to be pitied."

Imagine trying to get the most out of each day, scared to death that this might be the last day on earth. Because you had no hope beyond the grave.

Christ is greater than any angel. Christ has given us the victory. He has delivered us from fear and bondage. And the sad thing is that a lot of us who say we believe it, still go around playing with that terrible bondage. You have been set free. There is nothing to be afraid of. Death has no victory.

I believe Jesus told us this when He gave what I call the constitution for the church. It is in Matthew 16 verse 18. Jesus said, "I will build my church." There it is. "And the gates of Hell shall not overpower it."

Now, watch this carefully. I believe it is the same issue. Some people say..what that means is: like there are gates, it is talking about the church being militant against the devil who is barn storming us. That is some peoples view of that.

Another view is that all the devils attacks. The gates of Hell and devil can never over take us. That is another view.

Well, I don't think either one of those views are the correct view of that passage. What are the gates of Hell? Well, gates means "door way into." Well, who is in Hell?

Well, the Bible says that the wicked dead go there. That is one thing. O.K. but what is the gate leading into hell? In the book of Revelation it tells you. Hell follows some thing riding on a horse. What is it? DEATH.. The door way into hell is death. The rich man died and in hell lefted up his eyes. How do you get into hell? You die.

So, Jesus said, the gates to hell, the doorway into hell..death. And it death shall not prevail against the church. What a statement. It means that no matter who kills you, they didn't have the victory.

Listen, you may kill the body, but nothing, including death, can separate you from God. The gates to hell, death intself can not overpower the church. It is God's church and God's people.

You know, I read this verse and it is so simple. Yet, I though how easy it is for us to live, each day, worrying about when we are going to die. Or, how much time we have left to live.

Hay! Forget all of that. Absent from the body, present with the Lord. Who carries.

When someone dies who is a believer, we often say: How tradget. Hay! That is a blessing. That is an act of God's love. They are with the Lord. Praise God. What a treendous thing.

Have you been delivered from the fear of death. Some people through out their entire life are in bondage to this fear. Hay, listen, there is nothing to be afraid off when you know Jesus. God has not given us the spirit of fear. We are with him.

Now, if you are still afraid, you feel a little embarrassed right now.. Right?..A little guilty. I am fearful.

What will get the fear out of your heart? It is to start putting your faith and confidence and attention in the facts of God's Word. Not in your feelings. Start looking at God's Word again. Did Jesus arise from the dead? Will you arise from the dead? WHICH IS IT?...YES OR NO..

Do you believe it or don't you? Don't believe it and you are going to live in fear

Believe it and there will be no fear at all. Jesus has delivered us from this fear.

(4) Fourth, there is a very interesting statement in verse 16. And that is Christ promise to the seed of Abraham. You must look at this verse very carefully. Vs 16 says, "For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the seed of Abraham."

The point here is that Jesus in His great plan is not helping angels, as to why He became a man, NO..But he became a man in order to help US.. Jesus became a man, not for the sake of angels, but for the sake of man. And I believe this is talking to Christian Jews for whom the book was written. The ones who questioned whether or not Jesus was greater than the angels. And the writer is saying that Jesus became a man in order to help the seed of Abraham.

And that is why the next statement in Vs 17. It says, "Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren." His brethren are Jews.

In John 1:1.."He came unto his own, and His own received Him not. But as many as receive him to them he gave the right to become sons of God.

The point is that the writer is writing to Jewish believers who are tempted to go back to Judaism to escape the pressures and persecutions that is now coming to Christians. The followers of the way.

And they said to him as to why they wanted ~~and~~ return to Judaism, "Maybe Christ is not as great as we have made Him out to be. After all, the angels are pretty powerful."

And Paul says..NO!! Not only is Christ greater than the angels, but the reason He became man, humbled himself, is for YOU. He loves you. You died on the cross for you.

() I would like you to see in verses 17 and 18 how we see the authority of Jesus greater than the angels in his priesthood in our behalf. Two very wonderful verses. Just four things here.

(1) One, his identification with us in all things. Vs 17 says, "Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things."

Now, the little phrase "had to be made" is a weak translation. It means "was obligated to." That is a little stronger. What does it mean? Jesus, in order to intercede for me and become a high priest, had to be made like unto human flesh. He had to become a man. He had to know personal human life, by His own experience. He had to experience it in order to identify with us. In order to be a merciful and faithful high priest. He identified with us.

(2) Secondly, notice his intercession for us. Vs 17.. "that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God."

This little phrase "things pertaining to God" is another reason why I believe Paul is writing to Christian Jews. Do you know what that phrase would mean to a Jew? It is referring to all the worship of the Tabernacle.

Now, look at that text again and see if you really got it. He became like all of his Jewish brothers that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in all the areas of worship. Do you see?

That means that anything the high priest performs to the Jews in the O.T. Jesus has become. But He had to become a man in order to do it.

A little bit later in the book of Hebrews we are going to learn that a high priest was chosen from among men. WHY? So, that he could have compassion and concern for others. He was intercede on behalf of people to God.

So, the Bible is saying that Jesus had to become a man in order to fulfill all the functions of worship that that high priest in the O.T. went through.

Now, let's refresh our minds concerning the Temple.

The brazen altar...What does that refer to?...Anyone?.....The cross. Jesus died on the cross.

The laver of water...what does that refer to?...Cleansing...The cleansing that comes from Jesus.

The table of show bread....What does that refer to?...The bread of life. Jesus is the bread of life.

The candlesticks..What does that refer to? Light..And Jesus is the *Light of the World.*

Then the altar of incense...He is the one interceding for us. Then as you go into the Holy Place and the ark of the covenant. And Jesus is everything there. He is Aaron's rod and the resurrection. He is the pot of manna that feeds us daily. He is the whole thing. He is the law.

And dear friends, all of it, all of the furniture is in the form of a cross. Do you see the point? Jesus had to become a man to die. And he had to become a man in order to perform all the functions of worship that are necessary in the Tabernacle. Everything that was done. Every last thing. He was merciful and faithful.

Literally this isn't saying that He is a merciful and faithful high Priest. In this text it is two separate ideas. He became merciful. And also he was a faithful high priest. Merciful and faithful are not modifying "high Priest". Only faithful is. In the text He became merciful.

And a second idea is that He is a faithful high priest. Now, what does that mean?

First of all in terms of being merciful. If he was not made like unto us, if He was not a man, He could in no way show the compassion and pity necessary for man's weakness and man's lack of ability in saving himself. Jesus knew by personal experience that man could not save himself. Oh, as God He had the answer. But as man He became a merciful person. He knows that we cannot save ourselves. And He has become in and of himself everything that the Tabernacle pictures. Our whole way to God, which the Tabernacle beautifully pictured is in Jesus. And in Him becoming a man. We now can become believers. And He is merciful. He shows compassion. He will not leave it up to you to save yourself. There is not a person here who can save themselves. Jesus must save you. And He had to become a man in order to do it. In order to be merciful and know what you go through.

But, He is also a faithful high priest. Now, what does that mean? The High Priest was to do everything. And he was to do it right. For example he wasn't to go into the holy place until he offered the sacrifice on the brazen altar.

Christ did everything exactly as it was demanded. Jesus could not intercede for you until He had offered himself as the sacrifice on the cross. You have no access into the presence of God, the Father, even in prayer. Except as Jesus died on the cross. He provided a way as Paul says in Eph. chapter 2. So, that we can go directly into the Father's presence in prayer.

I Timothy 2:5 says "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and man, the man Christ Jesus."

(3) The third thing that I want you to see in that text, Vs 17, is His intention toward sin. The Bible says that He became this high priest for what reason? "To make propitiation for the sins of the people."

Now, what does the word "propitiation" mean? It means "mercy seat." When you came into the HolyPlace and you saw the Ark of the covenant with the slap of gold and the two Cherubines looking down on that slap of gold, that mercy seat is the word "propitiation." That place is where judgment and God's wrath was being pictured. That is why the high priest, once a year on the day of atonment would enter the Holy Place and pour the blood over the mercy seat to stop the wrath of God's angels, those cherubines, who were the angels of judgment, so that judgment would not come upon the people. And the Bible says that Jesus is our propitiation. He is the mercy seat. He came as the high priest. He fulfills the office of high priest. But He is also the mercy seat. For all the wrath of God against sin and against us was laid on Him, says the Bible. Praise God.

The Bible says that "he that believeth not is condemned already." We are going to experience God's wrath unless we accept Christ substitution. All of God's wrath though was put upon Jesus. He bore it all in His own body on the tree. He was our propitiation. He had to become a man in order to do that. Because someone in the flesh had to die for the sins that was done in the flesh. Christ, although He had no sin, became flesh and died as the payment ..the blood atonment...for God's wrath....Fantastic.

(4) Finally, notice his involvement, personally, in our own testing and sufferings because of this.

Vs 18 says.. "For since He himself was tempted in that which He has ~~suffered~~ suffered He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted."

The emphases of that verse is found in the words "tempted and suffered." It is referring to the time He went to the cross. Let me show you what I mean

In the garden of Gethsemana, Jesus said: "Father if it be possible let this cup pass from me. But not my will but thine be done."

Now, Jesus knew that he had come into the world to die. So, was he asking not to die? NO...Then ~~was~~ what was he going through there. What was the great struggle? It was the suffering that the human body would ~~suffer~~ experience. And Jesus knew that because he was God. He knew the sufferings he was about to experience. The Bible says that "he sweat as great drops of blood."

The ~~no~~ point here is that the moment of his suffering, he was tested. Tested about what? Tested or tempted from the human standpoint. Asking God to keep that suffering away from him.

Why the suffering? Just kill me and be done with it. Why the suffering? Answer: The Bible says that He learned obedience by the things which He suffered and became our great example.

Not my will, but thine be done. The only reason Jesus went through that is to know human life by personal experience . And also know that we, going through the same suffering, can draw upon His strength and His help in times of suffering.

The text says it so well, "He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted." Why? Because he was tempted in that which He has suffered."

Do you like to underline words in your Bible? If you do, then underline that phrase HE IS ABLE. Hay..that is the message of verse 18. It is Christ's strength in us. He is able to help those who are tempted.

Help..or wome come to the aid of those in need. Isn't that wonderful? Man! That verse just blesses my heart. When I am tempted..when I have a need...Jesus is there. And all he ask is for us to cry out to him.

~~Oh, I am glad jues is like that. Aren't you? No matter what trails you are going through..no matter ~~for~~ what problems, listen he is going to come~~

to your aid when you cry out for help

Oh, I am glad Jesus is like that. Arn't you? no matter what trails or testings you are going through...no matter what problems you face... Oh, listen, Jesus is going to come to your aid when you cry out for Him. Praise God.

Let's close in pryer