

## Hebrews

### Chapter Two

#### Hebrews 2:1-4

"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,

3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?"

#### "Therefore..."

- What is the "therefore" there for?
- The author of Hebrews has been building the argument that Jesus is the reason and the center of all of created history.
- Jesus was before creation
- Jesus is the source of creation
- Jesus is the reason for creation
- Jesus is sustainer of creation
- Jesus sits on the right hand of His Father on the heavenly throne making Him better than the angels who worship Him

**"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard**

- **The reason that we should take extreme care and sit up and notice is because it is the biggest revelation in the history of mankind!**
- The message that we should hear is that the very person of God became man and dwelt among us!
- Jesus has come and taught man the understanding of the character and nature of God

- God in Jesus has died for our sins and brought the perfect sacrifice once and for all
- Therefore this message has life-changing application for the history mankind
- Believers need to be careful not to be desensitized to this wonderful message and forget what they have heard
- Non believers need to be careful not to have a hardening of heart towards the message that they are hearing

**"...lest we drift away."**

- The word for "drift away" in the original language carries the idea of letting something "slip past" like a ring that has slipped off of a finger without being noticed, or a memory that has slipped from someone's memory.
- It also carries the idea of a ship being carried away by the current
- Notice it is the "we" who are the subjects that let the message slip away
- If we let this message carelessly pass by unnoticed there is no other way. There is no other hope of salvation.

**"...more earnest heed..."**

- This word in the original language is commonly used by sailors that bring a ship to land
- A person can sail along in the open seas of life not paying any attention to the things that are the most important to the meaning of life; but when confronted with the truth that person can either pay careful attention to the truth or simply drift by the truth risking the deadly danger of the open seas
- The author of Hebrews is making it very clear that Jesus is the last stop and there is no other

### **Not All The Seed Planted Grows And Not All The Seed Reaches Maturity.**

""Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."--Matt. 13:18-23

### **Hebrews 2:2**

"For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward...

### **"For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast..."**

- There is a rabbinical tradition that the Law was given by God to Moses through angels.
- What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; **and it was appointed through  
angels by the hand of a mediator.** Gal 3:19

- "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have **received the law by the direction of angels** and have not kept it."--Acts 7:52-53
- The closest we can come to an actual OT reference is Deuteronomy 33:2. Where the Septuagint translates the last clause as: "at his right hand were angels with him."
- The author to Hebrews understanding of the angels bringing the Law to Moses at Sinai is both Scriptural and inline with early Jewish tradition.

**...every transgression and disobedience received a just reward..."**

- The word for "transgression" is "parabasis" which means to "step beside"
- The word for "disobedience" is "parakon" which means "hearing beside"
- The word for "reward" is "*misthapodasia*" which means to give back with payment either good or bad. (Heb. 10:35;11:26)
- The spoken word is refused to be heard so that you walk in the wrong direction thus suffering the consequences of not listening carefully.

**The Law Required Strict Obedience**

- Every broken commandment had a penalty for not obeying the God's Law
- Ignorance was never an excuse for not obeying the Law of God
- In Leviticus and Numbers God gave Israel 613 laws in which to protect Israel from the surrounding nations
- Obedience to God's law resulted in blessing and life
- Disobedience to God's law resulted in cursing and death

**Hebrews 2:3-4**

how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

### **"How Shall We Escape?"**

- The answer is we will not escape if we ignore God's plan for humanity
- The word for "neglect" implies to have opportunity but to disregard or ignore the opportunity.
- The Hebrew letter was written to believers therefore it is not the issue of rejecting the message of salvation but neglecting the message of salvation
- There is a real danger when believers become indifferent and uninterested in such a "great salvation" that is in Jesus by Grace through faith

### **The Three Ways In Which Salvation In Jesus Was Revealed**

- It was spoken first by the Lord
- It was confirmed by those heard Him
- It was made true by signs and wonders, various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

### **It Was Spoken First By The Lord**

- "...for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."-- Luke 19:10
- "...I did not come to judge the world but to save the world."-- John 12:47
- "...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."-- Matt 20:28
- 

### **It Was Confirmed By Those Heard Him**

- "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty."-- 2 Peter 1:16
- "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life

the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."-1 John 1:1-3

### **It Was Revealed To Be True By Signs And Wonders Various Miracles**

- Water turned to wine (John 2:1-10)
- Feeding 5,000 (John 6:5-14)
- Walking on water (John 6:15-21)
- Calming the sea (John 6:15-21)
- Man born blind (John 9:1-7)
- Raising of Lazarus from the dead ( Luke 11)
- Jesus' resurrection

### **Gifts Of The Holy Spirit.**

- "Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?"--Gal 3:5
- "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."--1 Cor. 12:4-11

### **Hebrews 2:5**

For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.

### **God's Household Management**

- The way God manages the world today will be different than the Age to come.
- The word for "world" is "oikoumenan" which refers to the inhabited governed world or earth that is occupied by whichever government that is in control.
- When Hebrews was written it was the Roman Empire that was in control and governing this present world.

### **Angelic Administration**

- In this present age that we are living God manages the world through angelic powers
- "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.-- Eph 6:12

- "Then he said, 'Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.'"--Dan 10:20
- "After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea..."-Rev 7:1-2

- But the angels **will not** have the administrative duties they have now in the Age to come
- Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"--Rev 11:15

### **If The Angels Are Not The Ruling Agents In The World To Come Who Is?**

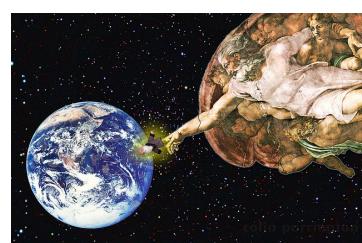
- **It will be Jesus the Son**
- Who is the appointed heir of all things
- Who made the worlds
- Who is the brightness of God's glory
- Who is the exact image of God the Father
- Who sustains all things by His powerful word
- Who cleansed our sins once and for all time
- Who sat down at the right hand of God making intercession for believers

### **Hebrews 2:6-8**

"What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet."

### **Psalm 8:4**

"What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?"



## **What Is Man.....?**



- Man is an inspired being made in the image of God
- Man is able to bring order to the world by the exercise of dominion over the works of God
- Man by his actions can bring good or evil into the world
- Man can examine his deeds and upon reflection change his behaviors
- Man can fulfill the will of God do the will of God and act within the will of God
- Man can return love to God and glorify Him

- Man is also created different than the angels, no where in scripture are we told that angels are created in the image of God; thus angels cannot have the same kind of love relationship with God that man can
- This also means that the incarnation was truly possible. Though the divine and the human attributes are not the same they are compatible with each other. Man is distinct from God as man, yet man is created in the image and likeness of God

- God knew that in the fullness of time that he would assume the body of a man. In that day, he would prepare a human body for His Son (Heb 10:5; Luke 1:35; and it would be made in the likeness of men (Php 2:7), just as man had been made in the likeness of God. God in His compassion and mercy purposed this before time began (1Tim. 1:9)

## **"What Is Man That You Are Mindful Of Him...?"**

God knows that man is but dust:

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."--Gen 2:7

"As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him. **For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust** . ---Ps 103:13-14

## **God Calls To Everyone Through Out The Ages Because He Cares**

"Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, **"Where are you?"**--Gen 3:9

Adam's name means: **Ground or red dirt**

"Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, **I who am but dust and ashes** have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord"--Gen 18:27

## **"....The Son Of Man That You Visit Him?"**

- "Visit him" means to **literally Care for**
- "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for **He cares for you**."---1 Peter 5:6-7

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not of more value than they?**"---Matt 6:25-26

### **Hebrews 2:7-8**

You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of

Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

### **Jesus Will Rule One Day The Nations**

- God placed man to have dominion and to rule over His creation
- In the this present age it is Satan who has dominion over the earth (Luke 4:5-6)
- But one day, one glorious day, Jesus will reclaim for man what we lost at the Fall
- All things are not yet subjected to Jesus (Hebrews 2:8)
- And all creation groans for the revealing of the sons of God (Romans 8:18-22)

### **Believers Will Rule With Jesus**

- "To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."- Rev 1:6
- "...for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."- Rev 5:9-10

- "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'-Matt 25:21
- "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."- 1 Peter 2:9-10

- "God gave man dominion over the earth, but man forfeited his power (not his right or authority) to take that dominion through sin, and the principle of death took away the power to rule. But Jesus came, and through His humility and suffering, defeated the power of death, and makes possible the fulfillment of God's promise that humans will have dominion over the earth - fulfilled both through Jesus' own dominion, and the rule of believers with Him."-Guzik

### **Revelation 20:4-6**

"And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

### **"But now we do not yet see all things put under him."**

- Why has Jesus never asserted his position of ruling authority over the devil and his angels in this world which belongs ultimately to him?
- Jesus has never used his absolute power to bring an end to global injustice, demonic activity, and suffering.
- Jesus allowed wicked men to crucify Him and to take His place of honor as king and ruling authority.
- Jesus seems to rule from a remote and distant place.

## **2 PETER 3:8-10**

“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

## **Hebrews 2:9**

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

## **What We See Verses What Is Not Seen**

- At this time we do not see all things subjected to the ruling authority of Jesus
- But what we do see is Jesus who experienced death for everyone that we might live
- 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight .-2 Cor 5:7
- Man searches for meaning and purpose to their lives and the culmination of everything is in the life and person of Jesus

- "For the meaning of life differs from man to man, from day to day and from hour to hour. What matters, therefore, is not the meaning of life in general but rather the specific meaning of a person's life at a given moment." Victor Frankl
- "How many things we do not understand are put into proper focus if we will only **see Jesus!** The answers to life's most perplexing questions are not questions of "**Why?**" though we often torture ourselves asking "Why?" **The greatest answer is a Who - Jesus Christ!**"- Guzik

## **God Is Faithful To Fulfill His Plan Of Redemption**

- When we look at generations past and we see the amazing faithfulness of God to each generation in spite of the worst impulses and works of man.
- God's promise: "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." Is 55:11
- God's word endures to all generations because He is faithful to all generations---We need to remind ourselves of this continually that He is faithful to accomplish His purposes

## **Psalm 119:37**

***Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me in Your way.***

## **Worthless Things**

- **Worthless** because they are meaningless.
- **Worthless** because they do not last.
- **Worthless** because they do not help any one.
- **Worthless** because they do not build the spiritual life.
- **Worthless** because they distract from things that are truly worthy.
- **Worthless** because they have nothing to do with the abundant life that Jesus desires for us.
- **Worthless** because in the end it is the purpose and design of God that will be accomplished

## **Fix Your Eyes On Jesus**

- The present world is out of control
- The governments in this world are far from being stable
- The economy is up and down
- Evil seems to be rolling out of control
- "But we see Jesus" says the author of Hebrews
- We can keep our hearts secure by fixing our eyes on Jesus knowing that God is in control of the world and is moving it in the direction of its appointed end that He has for it.

## Jesus Tasted Death For Everyone

- The goal of Jesus becoming lower than the angels was the cross
- It is the crux of the Christian faith
- "Crux" means cross
- We get our English word excruciating from crucifixion
- "It is arguably the most painful death ever invented by man..." Dr. Mark Eastman

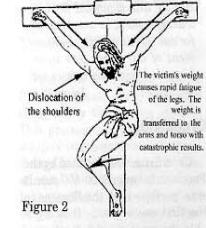
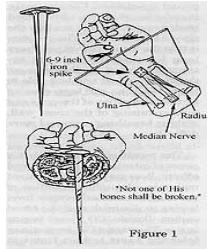


Figure 2

- To slow the process of death the executioners put a small wooden seat on the cross, which would allow the victim the privilege of bearing his weight on his buttocks. The effect of this was that it could take up to nine days to die on a cross.

## The Results Of Crucifixion

- The placement of the nail causes the median nerve to be severed causing a burning sensation, yet with minimal bleeding
- With the knees flexed at about 45 degrees, the victim must bear his weight with the muscles of the thigh.
- The result is that within a few minutes of being placed on the cross, the shoulders will become dislocated.
- Minutes later the elbows and wrists become dislocated. The result of these dislocations is that the arms are as much as 6-9 inches longer than normal.

- With the arms dislocated, considerable body weight is transferred to the chest, causing the rib cage to be elevated in a state of perpetual inhalation.
- Consequently, in order to exhale the victim must push down on his feet to allow the rib muscles to relax. The problem is that the victim cannot push very long because the legs are extremely fatigued. As time goes on, the victim is less and less able to bear weight on the legs, causing further dislocation of the arms and further raising of the chest wall, making breathing more and more difficult.

"Over a period of several hours the combination of collapsing lungs, a failing heart, dehydration, and the inability to get adequate oxygen supplies to the tissues cause the eventual death of the victim. The victim, in effect, cannot breath properly and slowly suffocates to death. In cases of severe cardiac stress, such as crucifixion, a victim's heart can even burst. This process is called "Cardiac Rupture." Therefore it could be said that Jesus died of a "broken heart!"

Dr. Mark Eastman—The Agony of Love

### **Death Is The Last Enemy Destroyed**

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. **The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.**"- 1 Cor 15:22-26

### **Psalm 90:13-14**

- "Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days!"
- As believers we know that when we die we'll go to the place Jesus is preparing for us!
- Our lives have difficulties and if the Lord doesn't return soon our lives will end in death. But death leads to eternity

### **1 Corinthians 15:51-58**

"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — 52in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

### **Hebrews 2:10**

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

### **It Is The Only Way**

- It was "fitting" for the "captain" of man's salvation to provide the way back to God
- Man cannot do it by works of righteousness on his own
- The only way back to God is through Jesus the great High Priest
- "perfect" is "*telios*" which means to complete or accomplish
- Jesus suffered for our salvation thus accomplishing the purpose of bringing sons to glory who believe

### **Acts 26:22-23**

"Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come — that the Christ would suffer , that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

### **2 Corinthians 5:13-21**

"For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

### **Hebrews 2:11**

For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren

### **Jesus Is Not Ashamed**

- Out of all the lessons in these first two chapters of Hebrews is that the God of the universe, the sustainer of everything that exists, Jesus the Son of God is not ashamed to identify with the miserable, hopeless, beat down and broken sinner.
- Jesus is not ashamed of the believer. He faced the shame of the cross and died for us so that we can live in relationship with Him
- The question is: Are we ashamed of Him?

## **Results Of Being Ashamed Of Jesus**

- **Avoidance:** We will usually avoid being involved with Him and others who remind us of Him
- **Unworthy:** We will feel unworthy and begin to find our worth in other things, i.e. our status is in people, in things, or in a job in order to fulfill our need for worth
- **Rejected:** We will feel that everything that happens in life is our fault usually from our own critical inner voice and we try to be perfect in order to be accepted

## **Jesus Is Not Ashamed To Call Us Brothers**

- The word for "brothers" in the original language is "*adelphos*" which means from the same womb.
- The point that the author of Hebrews is making is that Jesus is not ashamed to acknowledge the same feelings and the same problems in life that every human being experiences
- In every aspect the God of the universe became our brother to identify with our position in life in order to strengthen us in that moment of deepest need.

## **Jesus Calls Us His Brothers**

- "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." (Heb 2:12; Psalm 22:22)
- "I will put My trust in Him." (Heb 2:13;Is.8:17)
- "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me." (Heb 2:13;Is. 8:18)
- It is not below Jesus to call us his brothers.
- Is it below us to call Him our savior?

## **2 Timothy 2:11-13**

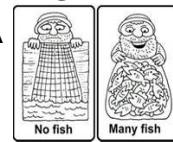
"This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."

## **WHO WE ARE BECOMING**

- Jesus is both our sanctification and the One who sanctifies
- Through His work on the cross Jesus has become our cleansing
- By faith we are justified once and for all- Rom 5:1
- The process of renewing is moment by moment

## **OUR POSITION IN CHRIST VS. OUR STATE OF BEING:**

- COL. 2:8-9---We are complete, A Fishing net complete and overflowing
- TITUS 3:3-5---Jesus is renewing us
- HEBREWS 5:14---Jesus is making us mature
- HEBREWS 4:12---Jesus makes us mature through his inspired living Word



THE PERSON COMMITTED TO JESUS RECOGNIZES, “WHO HE IS” AND “WHO HE IS NOT” AND THE TENSION TO GET “WHERE HE IS SUPPOSED TO BE”

**PHP 3:10-14**

## **PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14**

"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

- NKJV

## **Nothing Is Wasted in God's Economy!**

- We often look at our life as a series of events; like dots on a line.
- Failure at this point in life defines us; success is lived in former glory
- However it would be better to see our life as a story or a journey to be lived.
- Failure is not falling---Failure is allowing ourselves to stay down.

God can take the disappointments in our life and use them to draw us into a deeper relationship with Him. We don't want to waste our pain. We should allow God to use it to draw us into a more abundant life with Him!

## **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

"For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption — that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

### **Hebrews 2:14-16**

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

### **What Jesus Did As Our Brother**

- Jesus became "flesh and blood" in order to redeem mankind
- Jesus destroyed the "power of death" in order that though we die we might live with Him in eternity
- Jesus released us from the tyrant death. We may fear the dying process or may even fear the unknown but through Jesus' resurrection death is no longer futile but now serves a purpose

### **Hebrews 2:16-18**

For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God,

to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

## **Jesus Gives aid To The Seed Of Abraham**

- All believers are the spiritual "seed of Abraham"
- "Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? — just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham."--Gal. 3:5-9

## **The Relationship At Creation Required a Condition**

- Man was innocent in a perfect environment living in relationship with God
- The condition was perfect obedience
- The failure was disobedience of not believing God's word
- The judgment was spiritual and physical death. Physical death still reigns throughout mankind.
- The way of salvation required the slaying of a lamb or some animal provided by God.

## **The Same Is True For Man Today**

- The condition today is man is to believe God's word that all have sinned.
- The test is to accept Jesus as Savior.
- The failure is unbelief resulting in the rejection Jesus' work on the cross
- The Judgment is spiritual death and eternal punishment
- The way of salvation is provided by God through Jesus' death on the cross by faith

## **Therefore Jesus is Our High Priest**

- Jesus was made like man so that He could be our "...faithful and merciful High Priest in things pertaining to God..."
- As our High Priest He represents us before God
- The High Priest wore a breastplate that had stones engraved with the names of the tribes of Israel on both his chest and his shoulders. The High Priest would therefore be in constant sympathy with the people of God carrying them

## **The Reason Man Needs Propitiation**

- **God's Holiness:** God cannot tolerate sin (Hab. 1:13)
- **Man is sinful:** All have sinned (Rom. 3:23)
- **God is Love:** God is love (1 John 4:16)
- **The cross:** God demonstrated His love on the cross (Rom. 5:8)

## **Jesus Made Propitiation For Our sins**

- Propitiation: A sacrifice for sins, as well as, pacifying the wrath of God
- Propitiation is a pagan word. The gods whimsical moods needed propitiation to keep the gods in good spirits.
- Atonement includes sacrifice for sins and has sin in focus but there is no pacifying wrath of God

- "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."--John 3:36
- "...Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed..."-- Rom 3:24-25

### **Jesus Is Able To Help In Times Of Our Temptations**

- "...being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted."
- It is astonishing to think that there is a God in Heaven who by His own choosing and experience knows what believers are going through and can help during our times of temptations not simply just feel bad for me!
- God didn't just give commands from Mt. Sinai but He came down and experienced living as a man so that we can identify with Him and He with us

### **Temptation Is Common To Man**

- Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. **No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man;** but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."-- 1 Cor 10:12-13
- "...And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."--Matt 6:13
- Lead us away from the places where we will be tempted

### **Temptation Is Not Sin**

- "...**each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.** Then, **when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin;** and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."-- James 1:14-15
- Temptation only becomes sin when we allow the temptation to control our thoughts and behaviors!
- When we allow our desires in thought, word, and deed to be contrary to the Scriptures the temptation has become fully-grown and becomes sin in our life

### **Take Our Thoughts Captive**

- "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...**" 2 Cor 10:4-5
- When we know our thoughts are contrary to the Scriptures we are taught by the Scriptures to take every thought captive before they cause ourselves and others harm
- It is the little openings that we allow into our lives that open the heart for sin to become fully grown

### How Did The Serpent Tempt Man?

- We need to be aware of the Devil's schemes so that we cannot be taken advantage of by his devices.
- "...**in order that no advantage be taken of us** by Satan; for **we are not ignorant of his schemes.**"--2 Cor 2:11
- The Serpent's main weapon is deception towards the integrity of God
- The Lord is loving, gracious, forgiving, and faithful. The Devil attempts us to question the Lord's character

### How Did The Serpent Tempt Man?

- **3:1: "DID GOD REALLY SAY,"**

### How Did The Serpent Tempt Man?

- **3:1: "DID GOD REALLY SAY,"**
- **3:3: ..."YOU MUST NOT TOUCH IT"**

### How Did The Serpent Tempt Man?

- **3:1: "DID GOD REALLY SAY,"**
- **3:3: ..."YOU MUST NOT TOUCH IT"**
- **3:4: "YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE..."**

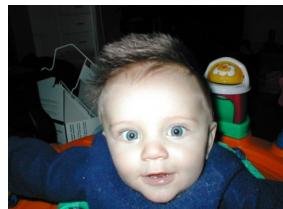
### How Did The Serpent Tempt Man?

- 3:1: "DID GOD REALLY SAY,"
- 3:3: ..."YOU MUST NOT TOUCH IT"
- 3:4: "YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE..."
- 3:5: "**FOR GOD KNOWS...**"

### How Did The Serpent Tempt Man?

- 3:1: "DID GOD REALLY SAY,"
- 3:3: ..."YOU MUST NOT TOUCH IT"
- 3:4: "YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE..."
- 3:5: "**FOR GOD KNOWS...**"
- 3:6: **THE RESULT: "BE LIKE GOD KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL**

### THE EFFECT OF THE FALL UPON MANKIND:



THEIR EYES ARE OPENED

### THE EFFECT OF THE FALL UPON MANKIND:



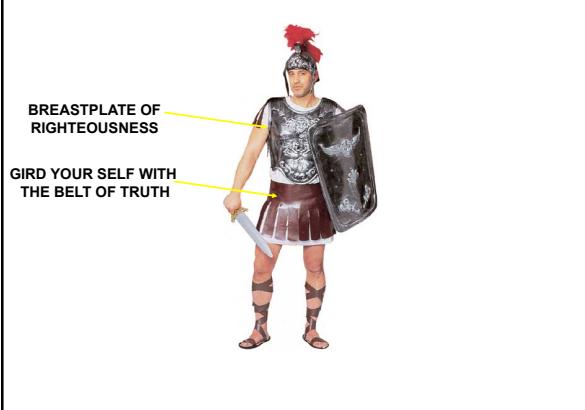
THEY PLACE BLAME

Eph 6:11-12  
Put on the whole armor of God,  
that you may be able to stand  
against the wiles of the devil.  
NKJV



## Truth

- "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth , and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."--John 14:6
- "Sanctify them by Your truth . Your word is truth ." -John 17:17



## **Righteousness**

- "...and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness , which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, **the righteousness which is from God by faith..**"- Phil 3:9
- "But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even **the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ,** to all and on all who believe."--Rom 3:21-22



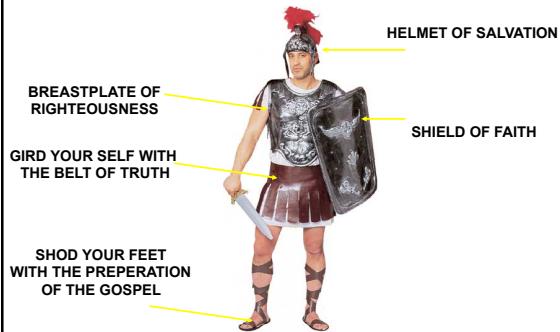
## **The Gospel**

"Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."--1 Cor 15:1-4



## Faith

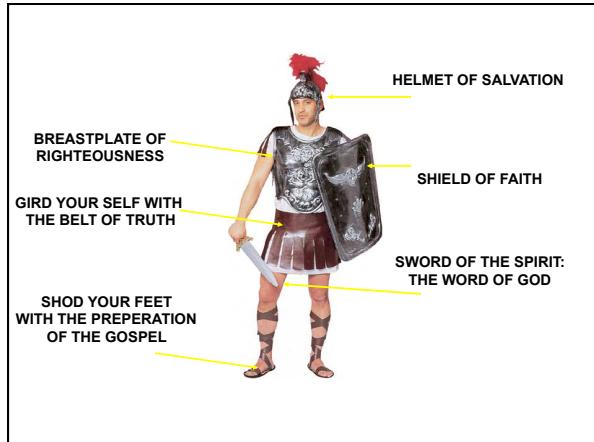
- "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."--Rom 10:17
- "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."-Heb 11:1



## Salvation

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls."--1 Peter 1:3-9



## Defeating Temptation Through The Scriptures

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." **But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"**

- "And take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**"--Eph 6:17
- "Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, **as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow** thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious."--1 Peter 2:1-3

## The Word Of God Is A Living Organism

- "The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me. The Bible is not antique or modern. It is eternal." (Martin Luther)
- "For the word of God is living and powerful...." Hebrews 4:12





## Defeating Temptation Through Prayer

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. **If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

OUR PRAYER LIFE IMPACTS OUR SOUL BY NOURISHING OUR LIFE IN JESUS. ONE WAY PRAYER NOURISHES OUR SOUL IS BY REFUSING TO WORRY OVER ANYTHING, FOR WORRY MEANS THERE IS SOMETHING OVER WHICH WE CANNOT HAVE OUR OWN WAY, AND IS IN REALITY PERSONAL IRRITATION WITH GOD. IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS. NEVER LET ANYTHING PUSH YOU TO YOUR WITS END, BECAUSE YOU WILL GET WORRIED, AND WORRY MAKES YOU SELF-INTERESTED AND DISTURBS THE NOURISHMENT OF OUR LIFE IN GOD. PRAY AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD THAT HE IS THERE, NO MATTER WHAT IS HAPPENING.--OSWALD CHAMBERS, IF YE SHALL ASK...



### **Ephesians 6:11 & 18**

"Put on the whole armor of God,  
that you may be able to stand  
against the wiles of the devil.  
praying always with all prayer  
and supplication in the Spirit,  
being watchful to this end with all  
perseverance