

Living Word

Date: March 9, 2008

Topic: Hebrews 2 - Glory Through Suffering

Announcements

Prayer

Teaching

Small Groups

Announcements -

Youth Website - www.dundeeyouth.org

High School

DPC tonight!!!

Junior High

Mission Course - applications are out, and we only have 9 spots so sign up as fast as possible, show video

Living Word

Every week at 10!!!

Prayer

Memory Verse

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. - Hebrews 11:1

Review

Go over the Memory Verse!!!

What did we learn in Chapter 1? Who can tell me?

Catherine with an summary for Chapter 2.

Review the whole “autonomy” idea from Christiana from last week using Williamson and Pink. Talk about how when God changes us, the Holy Spirit is within us and guides us. Therefore, God is making us do things, but they are always things we *want* to do.

Teaching

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

Therefore!!! Often times we overlook certain things when we read Scripture. We read verse by verse and chapter by chapter, and so we think that when whoever wrote the book put it down, He is writing, “Chapter two, verse one, ‘Therefore.’” But that’s not how Scripture was written. This book is all one manuscript that didn’t have chapters or verses, or even the title headings present in the original text. So sometimes, or maybe I should say oftentimes, we need to break our mold and read it in the context of the whole book, especially in the surrounding text. *Therefore*, if the author of Hebrews uses the term *therefore*, what does that mean? What does the term *therefore* imply? It implies that he is making an argument. He has given his proof and is now telling us what we need to know. So in verse 1, he’s summing up the first chapter and saying we need to pay even closer attention to what Jesus has said because He’s higher than the angels, as we learned about last week.

2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution,

Thinking back to the Old Testament times now, the Jews and Christians believed that it was angels who gave the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Then after that there all these things that happened when people would go against the Law. If you read the rest of Exodus through Deuteronomy and then even through the rest of the OT, you see that. But especially in the Pentateuch we see God’s justice enacted on those who disobey. So the author is saying that God commanded and followed up on His punishment then.

3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, 4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Now He's likening the OT to the New with how angels delivered the first commandments and how Jesus (God Himself) brought the final and *great salvation*. Then it was *attested by those who heard*. Let's turn to 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. *Signs, wonders, and miracles* were performed throughout Jesus' ministry, and then the Holy Spirit came when? At Pentecost, where He then gave us the Holy Spirit to be within us, guiding us, lighting our path.

5 Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking.

God didn't send Jesus into the world to save angels though. Sometimes we get this wrongful idea of angels. There are good angels and bad angels. The bad ones sinned, following the first which is Satan. But God didn't choose to save angels. He chose to save humans.

6 It has been testified somewhere, What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? 7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, 8 putting everything in subjection under his feet.

He says God did not make the world for the angels and then he quotes from Psalm 8 verses 4 through 6. Let's read those out loud.

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control.

Again the author is talking about what attribute of Jesus? We talked about it last week. That Jesus has total control and reign over all things is called ... sovereignty. And the author talks of the totality of the term sovereignty, that *nothing is left outside his control*.

At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

There are two sides of politics, horrible dictatorships, horrible people, mass genocide, global warming and other things all over the world that might make it seem like God *isn't* sovereign. But let's hear that memory verse again ... Let's think of it from the other side. If we believe that humans are totally sinful, 100% evil *before* the Holy Spirit transforms their will and God *wasn't* controlling

the world; then how do you think the world would look? It would be mass chaos ... total mayhem.

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

Let's go to Revelation 4 verse 11. Okay now *made lower than the angels* is where Jesus the Son of God became incarnate (was born) and lived as a human for a time of approximately 35 years. Again, the angels ministered to Jesus in the wilderness, they were for a time greater than He because He was human. Now that's not to strip from Him His deity; He was still fully God while he was a man, that's how He could remain sinless. Let's turn to Romans 5:8-21.

10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

The Shorter Westminster Catechism is one of the confessional documents that holds our theology and it's a series of questions and answers. The very first question, which is similar to the age old meaning in life question, is what is man's chief end, or what's our purpose here in life and into eternity? And the answer is *to glorify God and enjoy Him forever*. Isn't that awesome. So verse 10, it is for Him that all things exist. And then there's that crazy statement, that God made the founder (Jesus) perfect through what? Suffering. In all the science fiction and mythology and writing through the ages, who has ever thought of something this counterintuitive? That we should be brought to reconciliation through the shedding of one's blood. That He should live a perfect life to make us *perfect* in God's sight. That He should wash away our sins through His sinless blood. Amazing!

11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 saying, I will tell of your name to my brothers; 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 God has given me.

He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified is just talking about Jesus and us as believers, and it says that we all have one source. That source being

God. But it's important to note here, we are sinful, He is sinless. We hated Him, He's always loved us. We turn from Him, His love is steadfast and eternal. Why would Jesus be ashamed? Because we're ashamed of Him. Yet it says that He's *NOT* ashamed.

14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

This is speaking to the fact that Jesus *did* die. It's important that we recognize that because sometimes we think that He went to the cross and God kind of whisked Him away to heaven and didn't make him die, but He did. The gospels attest. It was His death that brought the destruction of death. From the beginning Satan brought death into the world, but Christ took it out for those whom God has given Him. Verse 15 says that we feared death, but since we now know Jesus and His amazing power over death, we have no need to fear it any longer. We shouldn't be afraid of death at all! Why not, because we should know where we're going. We should know that it's going to be the most awesome thing we can even imagine times infinity! We should know that we are going to be in total communion with the one true and living God of all the ages. And that is something to get excited and pray for.

16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.

Jesus didn't come to aid the angels but He came to aid those whom God has given Him. The circumcised of the heart. Let's turn to Deuteronomy 10:16 briefly. Then let's look at Romans 4:9-12, then let's look at Philippians 3:1-11.

17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

He had to be MADE like his brothers in every respect. Christ was made just like us, that way He could experience life the same way and live the life of the High Priest to the fullest. Let's look at Leviticus 16:15-19.

18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Because He lived in the same circumstances as we do, He can help us.

Summary

Accompanying Text

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Psalms 8:4-6

Revelation 4:11

Romans 5:8-21

Deuteronomy 10:16

Romans 4:9-12

Philippians 3:1-11

Leviticus 16:15-19