

DON'T FORSAKE JESUS

IT'S ALL IN THE WAY YOU LOOK AT IT

➤ **READ HEBREWS 2:5-9**

SUMMARY: These verses explore the subordination of the world to come to Jesus.

Look

- *"Subjected the world to come" (5)* – speaking of the land of heaven where believers will reign with Christ
- *"A place where someone has testified" (6)* – strange reference since the author would have known it was from Psalm 8. Perhaps because it was so well known.
- *"Grace" (9)* – the grace is evident in the vicarious nature of it

Discuss

1. Why did Jesus appear humble when he came to earth the first time?
2. In Hebrews 2:6-8 the writer refers to Psalm 8 and Genesis 1:27-30. While the writer of Psalm 8 apparently was writing about humans, the words also point to Jesus, the greatest man. What authority was given to man? to Jesus?
3. According to verse 9, why did God crown Jesus with honor and glory?
4. How do these truths put everything into perspective for a Christian struggling with following Jesus?

➤ **READ HEBREWS 2:10-13**

SUMMARY: The correctness of God's perfection of Jesus through his death as the author of salvation for his human brothers.

Look

- "Was fitting" (10) – according to his gracious character and purpose for mankind
- "Author" (10) – has the idea of source (originator, founder, chief)
- "Makes men holy" (11) – priestly status is being emphasized

Discuss

5. Consider verse 10 & 11. What was it necessary for Jesus to become in order to bring "many sons to glory"?

Hebrews 2:10 (EHV) Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings.

6. In verse 11-13 the author repeatedly emphasizes Jesus' humanity. Fill in the blanks:
 - a. Verse 11 – Jesus speaks of both him and believers as being of _____
 - b. Verse 12 – Jesus calls those he serves _____, implying that Jesus became a human being
 - c. Verse 13 – Jesus put his _____ in God, showing that for a time he did not make full use of his divine glory but became one of us.
 - d. Verse 13 – God gave Jesus _____, implying that Jesus became human, which was the only way he could have spiritual offspring.
7. How does Jesus's becoming a human being both comfort us and give us an answer to give to those who claim Christ is not God since he seems so weak?

➤ **READ HEBREWS 2:14-18**

SUMMARY: The benefits of his incarnation for his human siblings

Look

- "Children" (14) – referencing back to the children God gave Jesus (believers)
 - What a comfort to know we are called children of God
 - What a joy to know that Christ really came and took on our human flesh and blood
 - What a blessing to know that he conquered our deadliest enemies
- "So that" (14) – purpose clause (note the two purposes)

- “Destroy” (14) – The Greek word here means “to render ineffective the power or force of something—to invalidate, to cause not to function”
- “Abraham’s descendants” (16) – All those who share his faith in the redemption that God would bring/brought about through the Savior.
 - *Romans 9:6-8 It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. ⁷ Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”⁸ In other words, it is not the natural children who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring.*
- “Like his brothers in every way” (17) – Jesus didn’t just appear to be human; he was totally human in every way, apart from sin
- “Merciful and faithful high priest” (17) – Priests offered sacrifices. Jesus became the ultimate High Priest when he offered his body on the altar of the cross. He did not shirk any of his responsibilities but faithfully carried out his work to the end
 - Merciful in bringing God’s mercy to his human brothers
 - Faithful in bringing human brothers to God
- “Atonement” (17) – restoration of a good relationship by removal of sin by the payment of a life for a life, and the turning away of God’s wrath and the gaining of his gracious acceptance

Discuss

8. In what sense does the devil hold the power of death?
9. What assurance do you find in Hebrews 2:14-18 for the nagging fear that you may not be forgiven?
10. Jesus’ sufferings save us. But they also give us additional comfort. What comfort does verse 18 speak about?
11. Of all the temptations you face, which of them do you think Jesus faced as he lived in human flesh on this earth?
12. Verses 5-18 are the most comprehensive teaching in New Testament on the purpose of Jesus’ incarnation...
 - a. By it God’s royal Son was for a short time made lower than the angels to glorify mankind, so that, together with him, they could share in his glory and reign with him in the age to come
 - b. By it God’s holy Son died on behalf of all people to sanctify them for priestly service as praise singers together with him in his heavenly choir
 - c. By it God’s powerful Son died to destroy the devil and free all those who were held in bondage to him by their fear of death
 - d. By it God’s faithful Son became like his human brothers in every respect and was tested like them by the worst of human suffering, so that he might become their compassionate helper

➤ **READ HEBREWS 3:1-6**

SUMMARY: This section summarizes the preceding section, which had described Jesus as the Son sent by God as his spokesman in 1:1-2:4 and as the High Priest who sanctifies his brothers in 2:5-18. It also introduces a new discussion on the status of Jesus as the anointed Son over God's house.

Look

- *"Therefore"* (1) – This word is important for all of chapter 3. It ties together the message of the Gospel (from chapter 2) with the message of warning not to trifle with the Word of God.
- *"Fix"* (1) – focus, consider Jesus with the eyes of faith and contemplate his faithful service as Priest
- *"God's house"* (2) – This is a reference to a great body of people (Israel/Holy Christian Church)
- *"Would be said...we are his house"* (5,6) – Note that Moses talks of something in the future, but the author to the Hebrews talks of something Jesus brought about as a present reality
- *"Christ"* (6) – First time this "title" is used in the book of Hebrews
- *"Boast"* (6) – This refers to the cause for boasting, not to the act.

Discuss

13. The writer tells his readers to focus their eyes on Jesus. What thoughts does the writer weave into verse to 1 encourage us to do this?
 - a. We are _____, made that way in Jesus' blood
 - b. We are Jesus' _____
 - c. We are called to spend _____ with our Lord in heaven
 - d. Jesus is our _____
 - e. Jesus is our _____
14. How is it that Moses' and Jesus are the same?
15. Jesus and Moses are also different. Complete the following sentences:
 - a. Moses was a great leader, but he was merely a man, a part of God's house. Jesus, however, is _____
 - b. Moses was a servant in God's house, but Jesus is _____

16. Throughout this book, the author's words are loaded with gospel encouragement. But the book of Hebrews also contains some of the strongest warnings in Scripture. What warning is there for us in verse 6?

17. What does verse 1 mean in the context of death?

Endure

- ❖ When you look at Jesus, why might there be a temptation to forsake him?
- ❖ The word perspective suggests the secret to enduring suffering. Explain.

*Don't forsake Jesus, even when you see his humility.
He had to suffer as a human being in order to save us.*

Responsive Closing Prayer

L: Heavenly Father, sometimes it's difficult to keep a positive perspective on life,

G: especially when we encounter suffering and pain.

L: That's when we need to look again to your Son Jesus

G: who entered glory through suffering.

L: Help us always to remember that your ways are often quite different from our ways,

G: and your thoughts are higher than ours.

L: Thank you for giving us the exhortations and promises of your word.

G: Help us to use them to keep us from drifting away from you and your purposes in our life.

L: Strengthen us when temptations come.

G: Help us to view the whole world from the perspective of Christ.

L: In his name we pray.

G: Amen.