

Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 2:5-18

“Jesus our help in temptation” – January 21th, 2018



Introduction

‘Hope deferred, makes the heart sick’ Proverbs tells us (Proverbs 13:12). In all of life’s disappointments we can always run to God...but what if our disappointment has to do with God? We pray for something...but are left waiting in silence. We assume God will surely respond a certain way; but He doesn’t, and we’re stuck with a persistent illness, looking for a job, waiting for a spouse, hoping for kids, lacking a good friend, or not sure how to help a wayward friend or family member. We know God is good, but we don’t know what He’s up to. We know He’s present, but it *feels* like He’s absent. When God doesn’t respond the way we’d hoped, we may be tempted to look around for something else to trust. To help us, Hebrews 2 makes clear what His rescue plan is, so we don’t misunderstand His not doing things *our* way, is Him not caring for us. God does care and He shows us what He’s doing and how we should respond.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:17-24](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Wait patiently; we walk by faith not by sight (2:5-9)
- II. Fear not; our enemy has been defeated (2:10-18)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Hebrews 2:5-9](#)

How can Jesus be the King on the throne, but the world remains a mess and the church still be persecuted? To help the church understand that tension, Hebrews reaches back to Psalm 8. In its *original* context, David wrote the Psalm as a reflection about God’s amazing plan for humanity. In creating Adam and Eve, He made them vice regents to rule over creation ([Gen. 1:28](#)). When the first Adam failed to follow God, and tried to rule without Him ([Gen. 3:5](#)), humanity lost that privilege. Now at present all things are not under our control and the world groans under the burden of sin in chaos and pain. But, where the first Adam failed, the second Adam, Jesus succeeded ([Rom. 5:14](#)). That’s how Hebrews reads Psalm 8 and thus explains how in His incarnation, He was temporarily made low, but now is crowned with glory and honor, seated at God’s right hand.

The Kingdom of God (with Christ as King and His followers as subjects of His kingdom) has already begun, being inaugurated when Jesus began His earthly ministry. But the ‘world to come’ (see v5) when His Kingdom is fully consummated is yet to come, to be

established when Jesus comes a second time. We thus live in the *already, but not yet* aspect of God's kingdom. Our response is to thus wait and trust God until He comes again. The basis of our hope is that being united to Christ, His path from humility to glory is, by God's grace, our path. We *will* outlast every trial; we *will* one day see His kingdom established. One reason for this delay is God's mercy, that those who don't yet know Him have time to turn to *Him* (see [2 Peter 3:8-10](#)). What does that mean for the church as we wait? How can we encourage each other and strengthen hope as we wait for God's sure promises to be fulfilled?

Additional reading: Psalm 8, Mark 1:15

2) Read [Hebrews 2:10-18](#)

God's rescue plan is not the 'shock and awe' plan we may have expected. Instead, He comes quietly, the Son of God taking on flesh and remaining fully God, but also becoming fully man. That's what is meant by v14 that Jesus partook of the flesh and blood that humanity shares. Why the incarnation? God took on flesh, to die! He died because it was through Jesus' death that He was able to render powerless the one who has the power of death, namely the devil. How is it that Jesus' death can render him powerless? What does the fear of death look like in your life? How does Jesus rendering Satan powerless deliver us from that fear?

As our merciful and faithful High Priest, Jesus sets us free from sin's penalty (v17) and sin's power (v18). He is the one who will help us make it to the end! In the times we are tempted to doubt God's love for us, how help and hope does Hebrews 2:11 offer us?

Additional Reading: Colossians 2:14-15, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Romans 8:13

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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