

## Exactly The Savior We Need    Hebrews 2

### Hebrews 2    Introduction

- In the midst of our deepest troubles, it's understandable to think that God is distant.
- Understandable, but wrong.
- It's really just an understandable mistake.
- God is not far away.
- He has done literally everything to bridge the gap between the human race and Himself.
  
- There is no longer any need for distance between you and the God who loves you.
- Jesus – God the Son – crossed over to our side to lead us back over to His side.
- That's just one reason the Lord Jesus Christ is exactly the Savior that we need.

### Hebrews 2    Outline

- I. Here's why we need to be careful.    **2:1-4**
- II. Here's why God came as a man.    **2:5-9**
- III. Here's why we can relate to Jesus.    **2:10-18**

### Five Warning Passages in Hebrews:

- Warning #1    **2:1-4**
- Warning #2    **3:7 – 4:13**
- Warning #3    **5:11 – 6:20**
- Warning #4    **10:26-39**
- Warning #5    **12:15-29**

- Leaving the warnings out turns the letter into a theological treatise.
- Leaving the warnings in is what makes this letter a sermon.
  
- Read the letter without the warnings to better follow the well-reasoned case the letter is making.
- Read the warnings alone to feel the full weight of their solemnity.
- These are serious warnings indeed.

### Here's why we need to be careful. 2:1-4

- **2:2** **reward** = recompense, whether good or bad.
- In **10:35** and **11:36** the sense is positive.
- Here, not so much.
  
- **2:3** **confirmed to us by those who heard**
- We can say the same thing, as many of the New Testament authors knew Jesus and were eyewitnesses of the Gospel events.
  - Matthew, John and Peter were among the 12.
  - James and Jude were the Lord's brothers.
  - Mark was probably present, though young, during Jesus' active ministry.
  - Paul got much of His teaching directly from Jesus.
  
- See **Matthew 11:20-24** for a similar, but even stronger warning from Jesus Himself.
- In the *Narnia* series, Aslan isn't a tame lion.
- Jesus is not a big teddy bear.
- He's a reality-transforming Redeemer.
- The life He gives us is active, fruitful and full of adventure, but we have to "give the more earnest heed" or else we may totally miss out.

### Here's why God came as a man. 2:5-9

- **2:6** The "**someone**" in this verse is David.
- The "certain place" he says it is **Psalm 8:4-6**.
- **2:7** The "**little**" in this verse can also be translated "**a little while.**"
- **2:8** Someday we will see everything made subject to Jesus, but that day is not here just yet.
  
- **2:9** While every aspect of Christ's ministry was important, the main reason God the Son came to us as a real man was to die.
  
- **The Big Point is this:**
- If we needed miracles, God could have sent another Moses, Elijah or Elisha.
- If we needed strong leadership, He could have sent another Joshua, David or Nehemiah.
- If we needed good teaching or preaching, He could have sent another Isaiah, Ezekiel, or for that matter, Paul.
- But what we needed was Someone stronger than death, who could physically die, feel death's full devastating impact, and come out on the other side alive and standing.
- Such a man would be able to pull us through death in the same way he went through it Himself.
  
- We needed God the Son to add full humanity to His perfect Deity, to taste death for us, and to stand there waiting while we inevitably feel the burden of physical death ourselves.
- We needed a perfect sacrifice for sin.
- And we needed a big brother to go first.
- **Jesus accomplished all of this and more – by dying on Calvary's cross.**

## Here's why we can relate to Jesus. 2:10-18

- **2:10 captain** = leader or originator, also, pioneer or pathfinder. Again think of Jesus leading the way for us through His suffering and death.
- **Perfect** = complete *“Although Christ was morally perfect and sinless, his life and work were brought by suffering to a form of perfection or completion which cannot have been possible without them.”* (R. Brown)
- **2:11-13 sanctification**
- Sanctification has three parts to it:
  - **Positional sanctification:** This happens if and when we are born again.
  - **Progressive sanctification:** This happens later, gradually, day by day, as we grow in our faith and turn away from our sin, learning to love God more and more.
  - **Ultimate sanctification:** This happens “
- *“All too often sin, ignorance, or apathy keeps us from what we ought to be and can be with his help. We live well below our spiritual potential. If, through his work for us, we are sanctified, then let us see that our daily lives are ‘set apart’ so that what he achieved may be not only an item of theology but a fact of experience.”* (Raymond Brown – of Spurgeon’s College in London)
- **2:14-18** Let’s face it, death is one enormous unifying issue for the whole human race.
- Think of all the ink that’s been spilled by philosophers and religious thinkers writing about it.
- Think of all the tears that have been shed as a result of it.
- Even atheists have to fully deal with it.
- The famous atheist Bertrand Russell said the following in *A Free Man’s Worship*:
- *“The life of Man, viewed outwardly, is but a small thing in comparison with the forces of Nature. The slave is doomed to worship Time and Fate and Death... “because they are greater than anything he finds in himself, and because all his thoughts are of things which they devour... One by one, as they march, our comrades vanish from our sight, seized by the silent orders of omnipotent Death... “Brief and powerless is Man’s life; on him and all his race the slow, sure doom falls pitiless and dark. Blind to good and evil, reckless of destruction, omnipotent matter rolls on its relentless way ... “for Man, condemned today to lose his dearest, tomorrow himself to pass through the gate of darkness, it remains only to cherish, ere yet the blow falls, the lofty thoughts that ennoble his little day...”*
- No Christian need ever be so hopeless.
- How much better is the perspective we find in our passage:
- Read **Hebrews 2:14-15** again.
- The Bible doesn’t claim that death is feeble or insignificant.
- The Bible doesn’t minimize its enormity.
- Rather, we see here that the power of sin, death and the devil has been destroyed.
- Death has been defeated. Now we can be set free from its bondage.
- Jesus became like all of us so that He can be to us all that we need.
  - We need Someone to intercede for us empathetically. He mercifully shared in our human limitations and feelings.
  - We need Someone to intercede for us faithfully. He is unchangingly faithful.
  - He can address any need we have from the perspective of one who has already been through it.
- He can thoroughly relate to us. That’s why we can relate to Jesus.

## Hebrews 2      Conclusions

- We've seen how seriously Jesus took our problems of sin and death.
- He didn't need to take on the condition of full humanity.
- He didn't need to be born, grow up, be rejected and suffer and die.
- He did that for us – because He loved us.
  
- Does such great love deserve to be rejected?
- Does such great pain deserve to be ignored?
- The challenge we face today is to take our faith more seriously than ever before.
- Read **2:1-4** one more time.
- With such a perfect Savior – exactly the Savior that we need – how exactly should we respond?
  
- Finally, if we live our lives as if Jesus didn't matter, what hope do we have when we face Him in eternity?
- And, if we ignore Him in this life, when we meet Him face to face, what are we planning to say to explain ourselves?
- And how do we expect Him to respond?
- Jesus loves you deeply and only wants you to love Him back.