

**The Sequel to the Passion**  
**Lifeline March 24, 2004**  
**Pastor Jeremy D Spence**

Hebrews 2.10-3.1

Our Christ is Our...

-Substitute

-recap of last week's lesson and the events of the Passion

Alright I need a volunteer to help me out as we go through the following verses and hopefully help us understand what is going on here in Hebrews. (Give the volunteer the flashlight). This flashlight represents for us tonight the power, rule, and scepter so to speak that Adam and all of mankind received from God when we were created. That is the point to the first couple verses we read in our passage.

When we were created everything, including the angels, was put underneath our command as humans. We held the power of the world in our hands like our volunteer holds the flashlight in His. This is something that baffled many of people in our past and some of us still today, as our writer put it. Why in the earth Lord would you even think of allowing us to have this power? After all we are just like dust on the shelf when it comes to the big picture of things. In spite of that, God still gave us this power and right.

Yet it didn't last.

Okay I need another volunteer here. Our volunteer now has become the serpent. When Adam and Eve sinned it caused our power, rule, and scepter to be transferred from our hands to the hands of the one who became our ruler. That is why Hebrews states that "Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him." At the point that Adam and Eve sinned all of mankind lost the power that we once had. But back in Genesis God promised that we would someday get that power back and here in Hebrews our writer is starting to explain how that took place. But this part of verses points to our next point and the next verse.

The whole OT is the story of mankind trying to get back what God rightfully gave to us, to some extent. It shows the rule and the power Satan has because of what we willfully gave to him in the Garden of Eden through Adam and Eve's sin.

We Left off here last week and those of you who went to see *The Passion of Christ* with us on Sunday night actually saw some of what we are talking about and that transfer of power. If you have yet to see the movie I strongly, strongly, strongly, do you get my point, encourage you to go see it but beware it is quite graphic.

Turn in your bibles that are located at the corners of our space back to the book of Hebrews and join with me in chapter 2 again tonight as we study the last verses of the chapter and pick up where we left off last week. Someone read for me Hebrews 2.10-3.1.

HEB 2:10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. <sup>12</sup> He says,

"I will declare your name to my brothers;  
in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."

HEB 2:13 And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again he says,

"Here am I, and the children God has given me."

HEB 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

HEB 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.  
Let's Pray

Father we thank you tonight for all the fun we have been able to have with our friends and all those who are here. We also thank you for Joe and Alex leading us in worship to you and how our hearts have been primed for what your Word will teach us right now. Please give me the clarity of thought and speech as I try to accurately explain what we just read and put into language these teens can understand. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Okay we just read our passage for tonight, so you may want to put a extra piece of paper there but also bookmark in some way shape or form the book of Genesis. We will be flipping between the two books as we dive into our study.

Tonight we are going to see five things about our Christ and then we are going to pull out one big application that should help us as we go about our next seven days. Hopefully what we learn tonight can be your "Lifeline" at school, home, work, church even, and wherever else you may go.

1. Christ is our Pioneer and Author of our Salvation (10). Someone read verse 10 for me.

HEB 2:10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.

What the writer of Hebrews is telling us that God decided it was right and fitting to send Christ in order to be our author of our salvation. This idea of authorship is similar to our concept of a pioneer. What are some thing you think of when you hear the word pioneer? (Give some time for answers). That's right, and Christ is our pioneer with regards to salvation. He has already marked out the path that we need to travel.

The space below this point you may want to write in this: "He has blazed the way for us. All we need to do is hang on him for the ride." That is the main point of this verse. Christ has marked the way, hence what he can say that he is "The Way..." according to John 14.

Also in this verse we see that Christ was made perfect through suffering. Now this does not mean that Christ wasn't perfect before he came to the cross but instead that he completed the task that was at hand which was that He must suffer on the cross. Our English word perfect may be the wrong idea here. Throughout the whole NT the word perfect for the most part means being mature, completing a task, or doing what was set out for us. When the Bible says we are to be perfect it is telling us that we need to about the task of finishing what God has given us to do.

2. Christ is our Sanctifier (verses 11-13). Someone read for me verses 11-13:

<sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. <sup>12</sup> He says,

"I will declare your name to my brothers;  
in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."

HEB 2:13 And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again he says,

"Here am I, and the children God has given me."

-because of him making us holy we are called his brothers

In my Bible and in one of my commentaries when I came to this section I wrote in big letters "God You Rock!!!" Here's why I said and wrote those words.

The idea of being sanctified is about us being chosen and being set apart. When you come to know Christ you have been set apart from the world around us and called to a different life. We are no longer the same the Bible tells us. The idea of us "being made Holy" should encourage us that as Christians, even though we sin, when God sees us He doesn't see us as we are but he sees us through the lens of Christ. Because of what Christ

did for us we are made holy and perfect in the eyes of our Father. From this we can be called sons of God in the same sense that Christ is God's son.

Who calls who brother according to our author? Jesus calls us brothers and sisters. Now the interesting part about Jesus calling us of all people brothers, flows from the previous verses as we talked about last week and just a minute ago. Here Christ, the one who is leading our way when it comes to life and salvation is the one that is also calling us brothers. Better yet Christ, who calls us brothers, is the one that makes us holy. Christ is the one that returns us to the state we were in at the beginning of Genesis. Christ is saying that because we as Christians believe in Him he is not ashamed to call us brothers or sisters. That is an amazing thought to me. Maybe you always know that fact and it doesn't mean much but to me that is encouraging but challenging as well. From this we need to realize that as Christians once we are saved one of our primary purposes in live is to act like God sees us not as we are.

Now on to our third point: Christ is our Satan Smasher (verses 14-15). Read for me verse 14 and 15.

HEB 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Now let's pick up our analogy once again from last week and earlier tonight. I also need someone to read for me Genesis 3.15 for me.

GE 3:15 And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head,  
and you will strike his heel."

We also see this scene that we are going to illustrate within the Passion and I just loved seeing how Mel Gibson depicted it. God in the Garden predicted what Christ would do on the cross but never spelled it out for Adam and Eve. From this verse the whole Old Testament is waiting for that seed of Eve that will crush the serpent's head and get back the power that was once ours. You see in the temptation and fall of man Satan received the greatest tool he could ever have wanted: the power of death. Satan knew that God's standard was perfection and that anything less than perfection would mean death. See also Romans 6.23 for the concept of death being anything less than perfect.

The system that was put into place in the OT, mainly the sacrifices, was to make the punishment of sin and non perfection go away but it never conquered the greatest tool Satan has in his arsenal. That is why the verses state that we needed someone like ourselves to save us from ourselves. Christ had to come into this world like us and has a man because in order for us to be freed form the arsenal of Satan we needed someone who could be faced with everything we are faced with. So when Christ was on the cross and died he started to go where no man has ever gone before, he went into death and then took the weapon away from Satan and rose again as a man.

At this time he stepped on Satan's head/the serpent's and took back the power that we once had. He then and now sits on the throne judging people next to God. He has not totally defeated Satan because that will not happen until Revelation has been accomplished. But rest assures this:

-the battle has already been won. We do not need to be worried about defeating Satan because that has already been accomplished with the death and resurrection of Christ.

Secondly because of this we don't need and should not necessarily fear death. As Christians we are not to worry and fear death because of what Christ has done. This should give us great relief and take pressure of wondering what happens.

Finally our last aspect of Christ: He is our Sympathizer (verses 16-18). Read verses 16-18:

<sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

There are two points we need to know from these 3 verses:

1 Christ came to help and aid us. Because he came as a man and not an angel it is not the angels that need his help but instead it is us. By doing this he shows us today that he is faithful and merciful, something any of the other would be messiahs can't and wont be. It is also what designates him differently than the high priest of the days of the Jews. Just look at the crucifixion. The high priests were anything but merciful when it came to dealing with people and Christ.

But because of this and being made in our likeness as a man he can 2 Understand our temptations and is there to aid if we allow him to. Christ has gone through everything we have and will go through. There is nothing that happens to us that he hasn't already experienced and more. Christ was sarcastic, funny, tempted, hungry, thirsty, loving, tired, cried, and he did this without sinning. We will never know the exact pressure of temptation because we give in to it most of the time. Christ on the otherhand experienced temptation to the fullest extent and yet did not give in, that only is amazing to me.

Since Christ has been tempted he extends his hand out to us to help when we are. The question remains: Are you reaching for his?

Now what are we to do with all this and how can we apply this to our own life? The answer is found in 3.1

HEB 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

-Because of this we need to fix our thoughts on Christ

-This is our reasonable act considering what He has done for us This should help us when we need to get through things this week. Let's together fix out thoughts on Christ because of what he has done for us. Let's Pray.