



The Book of Hebrews 2:5-8_Mindful of Man!

December 17, 2023

Holy Text: Hebrews 2:5-8

Context:

Last week, we looked at verses 1-4 and were exhorted to:

- Give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. (v.1)
- Remember the steadfast word spoken by angels (the Law of God) (v.2)
- Not neglect so great a salvation, which is in Christ Jesus! (v.3)
- Also not neglect inspired Words of those who heard Him, the apostles (vv.3-4)

It was a soul-searching kind of message, in which the shame of being neglectful was palpable, and the exhortation to hold fast to Scripture was primary! May we remember the questions we asked at the end and adjust our lives accordingly:

- Are you passionate about prayer?
- Are you consistent in your study of Scripture?
- Do you faithfully attend and serve in the local church?
- Do you love to praise and worship Christ?
- Do you share the Gospel?
- Are you making any disciples?
- Are you committed to obedience?
- Do you consistently repent of your sins and forgive other of theirs?
- Are you generous?

Mindful of Man

Hebrews 2:5 (KJV) For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak.

- Recall in chapter one, the author of Hebrews declared the divinity of Christ:

Hebrews 1:1-3 (KJV) God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- He then put forward a lengthy apologetic (vv.4-14) concerning the Son of God's superiority to angels, of whom the Jews thought much:

Hebrews 1:4-6 (KJV) Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? 6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

- Continuing his argument that Christ is superior to the angels, the writer pivots to explain that even in His humanity, Christ, as the Son of Man, is superior to angels too! MacDonald writes:

It will help us in following the flow of thought if we remember that, to the Jewish mind, the thought of Christ's incarnation was incredible and the fact of His humiliation was shameful. To the Jews, Jesus was only a man, and therefore He belonged to a lower order than the angels. The following verses show that even as Man, Jesus was better than the angels.¹

- How is this so? Because God did not decree that the “world to come” would be governed by angels, but by man, chief of whom is Christ (v.9...our subject for next week, LORD willing)!
- In other words, angels are ministering spirits, but God has given man, not angels, dominion over the earth, in the world to come!

Genesis 1:26-28 (KJV) *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Daniel 7:27 (KJV) *And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.*

Revelation 5:9-10 (KJV) *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

- There is considerable debate concerning what “the world to come” means. Depending on one’s eschatology, it can mean:
 1. A post-tribulation 1000-year reign with Christ on the earth (Premillennial interpretation of Rev 20:1-6)
 2. The present “reign” of the Church until the coming of the LORD (Postmillennial and Amillennial views)²
 3. The post-eschaton reign of the saints with Christ for all eternity.

Encouragements and Lessons from this verse:

1. But the point is this: God thinks so much of man that He has given him a dominion that even angels do not have!
2. Man is a special creation of God. YOU are a special creation of God!
3. *This means that unlike the animals, Man has the communicable attributes of God. Only man was created with the capacity to be personal with God. Only man has the ability to love, reason, show mercy and grace, plan, be self-aware, and communicate with Him.³*

¹ Believer's Bible Commentary

² Good summary of end-time views: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/mill.cfm>

³ <https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2023/6/what-the-bible-says-to-men-pt-1-built-to-take-dominion>

4. Beloved, God blessed Man (their name is Adam, Gen 5:2) and commanded them to (Gen 1:28):
 1. Be fruitful. Be productive, bring things forth, increase.
 2. Multiply. Increase, produce abundance, make more of, have children!
 3. Replenish the earth. Fill or make full. Fill the earth with people!
 4. Subdue it. In the Hebrew, it means “to tread down; positively to conquer, keep under, subdue, bring into subjection.”
 5. Have Dominion. The Hebrew means “to tread down, that is, subjugate; prevail against, reign, (bear, make to) rule, (-r, over), take.”
 - Perhaps you’ve not thought of this, but this creation command to have dominion is deeply imbedded into Adam and his progeny. This God-given desire to intentionally “win or take territory” and see it brought under his dominion rule is just as intrinsic to a man’s life as a woman’s desire to bear children.
 - And just as godly women find their foundational joys in helping and supporting, likewise a man needs something to conquer: to give himself to and strive for.
 - A man without a mission will suffer spiritually, emotionally, and even physically. He’ll either shrivel up and become a shell of who he is supposed to be or misuse and direct his strength towards his lusts, violence, or power.⁴

Hebrews 2:6 (KJV) But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

- This verse is applicable to Christ in His humanity in the ultimate sense, but primarily refers to God’s love for Man. The author is quoting the Psalms:

Psalms 8:1-8 (KJV) To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. 2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. 3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. 6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: 7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; 8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

- Mindful means “to be called to one’s mind; to remember or think about.”⁵
- What is man indeed! The God who made the heavens and put the planets and stars in their place, loves man and thinks about him!
- Job said, “What *is* man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him? And *that* thou shouldest visit him every morning, *and* try him every moment?” (Job 7:17-18)
- We are small and insignificant in comparison to the size and glory of the heavens, and yet the God who is infinitely greater than His creation loves us enough to “visit” or care for us!
- Man is small, needy, and sinful. We are rebellious, with wicked hearts and selfish motives.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Thayer’s Greek Dictionary

- And yet God loves us!

John 3:16 (KJV) *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

1 John 4:9-10 (KJV) *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

Ephesians 2:4-7 (KJV) *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

Titus 3:3-7 (KJV) *For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. 4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

Be encouraged CRC!

Romans 8:35-39 (KJV) *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Encouragements and Lessons from this verse:

1. You are known by God!
2. You are thought of by God!
3. You have been “visited” by God through Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Ghost!
4. You are loved by God and He has given you dominion...

Hebrews 2:7 (KJV) *Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:*

- Man is made a little lower than angels, who are greater in power and might. (2 Pet 2:11) We do not possess their strength and abilities.
- Yet, man has been given glory and honor! Of course, this glory and honor is not the same as God’s. He will not share such:

Isaiah 42:8 (KJV) *I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*

Isaiah 48:10-11 (KJV) Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. **11** For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

- So how did God give man glory and honor?
 1. By making us in His image! (Gen 1:26)
 2. By giving us dominion over the earth! (Gen 1:28)
 3. By giving us His wisdom!

Proverbs 4:5-9 (KJV) Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. **6** Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. **7** Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. **8** Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. **9** She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

4. By giving us the honor and glory of family and children!

Psalms 128:1-6 (KJV) A Song of degrees. Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. **2** For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. **3** Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. **4** Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD. **5** The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. **6** Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

Proverbs 17:6 (KJV) Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

1 Corinthians 11:7 (KJV) For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

5. By allowing so many to live and age!

Proverbs 16:31 (KJV) The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

6. By redeeming us by the blood of Christ! (Jam 1:12, "He shall receive a crown of life...")

1 Peter 5:4 (KJV) And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

7. By indwelling us! (Jn 14:17; Rom 8:9-11; 1 Cor 3:16; 2 Tim 1:14; 1 Jn 2:27)

1 Peter 4:14 (KJV) If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

8. By making us kings and priests! (Rev 1:6)
9. By giving us a heavenly inheritance! (1 Pet 1:3-5)

Encouragements and Lessons from this verse:

1. Christian, know who you are and what you have been given in Christ, and rejoice!
2. And again CRC, you have been set over the work of His hands! Do you really see your life through the lens of such a divine stewardship? What an honor!

Hebrews 2:8 (KJV) *Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.*

- All things are and will be subject to Christ. But this verse is primarily referring to God's design and appointment for mankind. The juxtaposition is in the next verse:

Hebrews 2:9 (KJV) *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

- Beloved, God placed the administration of the earth under Man. We don't see the fulness of such today because of man's sin.
- One writer said, "It was Adam's sin that brought the curse on creation. Docile creatures became ferocious. The ground began to bring forth thorns and thistles. Man's control over nature was challenged and limited."⁶

Encouragements and Lessons from this verse:

1. Thankfully, Man's sin does not totally usurp God's decree. We are still called to dominion in Christ!
2. This means you are appointed, in Jesus, to take hold of and order your sphere of influence according to the Word of God and for the glory of Jesus Christ!
3. Again, think about God's holy vision for Man! Is the driving force of your life each day to be a good steward of all you have been given (Gospel, Bible, Family, Church, Time, Talent, Treasure) for the glory of Christ?

A Prayer

Oh LORD, Thou art mindful of us! We are overwhelmed that You think of us! Thou hast visited us. We are so unworthy! Thou hast given us dominion and called us to govern Thy creation for Thy glory. We have so often failed!

But in Jesus, Thou hast redeemed us and given us the victory! In Jesus, Thou hast forgiven our sins and cleansed us from all unrighteousness. And through the Power of Jesus Christ, we can rise each day and declare Thy wondrous love, build our houses upon the Rock, and make disciples of the nations.

Thank you for Thy great love, mercy, and grace, oh LORD!

Amen!

⁶ Believer's Bible Commentary