



The Book of Hebrews 2:9_ We See Jesus!

December 24, 2023

Merry Christmas!

Holy Text:

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.*

Last Week...

We were exhorted in the knowledge that our God is mindful of man! Indeed, He thinks of us, lays out plans for us, and loves us! Hebrews 2:5-8 blessed us with many joyful lessons:

1. Man is a special creation of God. YOU are a special creation of God!
2. You are known by God!
3. You are thought of by God!
4. You have been “visited” by God through Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Ghost!
5. God thinks so much of man that He has given him a dominion that even angels do not have!
 - Christian, know who you are and what you have been given in Christ, and rejoice!
 - Man’s sin does not totally usurp God’s decree. We are still called to dominion in Christ! 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!
 - 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? Do you really see your life through the lens of such a divine stewardship? What an honor!

In context, we also noted that the author of Hebrews continued his argument that Christ is superior to the angels. The writer is explaining that even in His humanity, Christ, as the Son of Man, is superior to angels too!

In today’s Text, we see this more clearly. After exalting the privileged place of humanity, the author pivots to the ultimate Man, Jesus our King. And although Mankind’s earthly dominion is tarnished by sin, “When the Son of Man returns to reign over the earth, man’s dominion will be restored. Jesus, as Man, will restore what Adam lost, and more besides. So while we do not see everything under man’s control at the present time, **we do see Jesus**, and in Him we find the key to man’s eventual rule over the earth.”¹

Let’s break this verse down

1. But we see Jesus...

The writer points now to Jesus. Jesus is the focus. He is the summary and ending point of the argument and apologetic of superiority to angels and even the special place of mankind. Indeed, if we properly “see Jesus” we must acknowledge that He is the sum of ALL things!

Colossians 1:15-20 (KJV) *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth,*

¹ Believer’s Bible Commentary

visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: **17** And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. **19** For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; **20** And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Can you “see Jesus?” Do you really believe that He is:

- **God the Son, fully divine**

John 1:1-3 (KJV) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** The same was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

John 8:58 (KJV) *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*

- **The Son of God, fully human**

Jesus has two natures in one person (called the Hypostatic Union). He is not half God, half man. He is fully God and fully man at the same time. At the incarnation, He added a human nature to His divine nature for our sake. His natures are not mixed together; they are separate, yet act as a unit. He was born of a woman (Isa 7:14; Lk 1:31; Rom 1:3; Gal 4:4), had a human genealogy (Mt 1:1; Lk 3:23-37) and body (Matt 26:12; Lk 24:39; Jn 1:14), and he had common experiences of humanity, including sorrow (Matt 26:37), natural growth (Lk 2:40), hunger (Lk 4:2), and sleep (Lk 8:23).

- **The only Savior from sin**

Acts 4:10-12 (KJV) *Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. **11** This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. **12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

John 14:6 (KJV) *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

2. Made a little lower than the angels...

Again, at the Incarnation, or His miraculous birth of a virgin, Jesus took on a human nature for our sakes. This is how He was “made a little lower...” Scripture says:

Matthew 1:21-23 (KJV) *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. **22** Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **23** Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (KJV) *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; **6** Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

John 1:14 (KJV) *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (KJV) *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

It was God Himself who was "manifest in the flesh" (1 Tim. 3:16). The One born in Bethlehem's manger was "The mighty God" (Isa. 9:6), and heralded as, "Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Let there be no uncertainty on this point. Had He been "emptied" of any of His personal excellency, had His divine attributes been laid aside, then His satisfaction or sacrifice would not have possessed infinite value. The glory of His person was not in the slightest degree diminished when He became incarnate, though it was (in measure) concealed by the lowly form of the servant He assumed. Christ was still "equal with God" when He descended to earth. It was "The Lord of glory" (1 Cor. 2:8) whom men crucified.²

3. For the suffering of death...

Man had and has a serious problem. Man is sinful. God hates sin. Sin is defined by God's Law. Sin requires death.

Genesis 6:5 (KJV) *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

Romans 3:23 (KJV) *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

Proverbs 15:9 (KJV) *The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.*

Jeremiah 44:4 (KJV) *Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate.*

1 John 3:4 (KJV) *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*

Romans 3:19-20 (KJV) *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Romans 6:23 (KJV) *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Revelation 21:7-8 (KJV) *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

² A.W. Pink. https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/attributes_online.html#chapter28

Christ came to pay the death penalty of the elect...to be a sacrifice for our sins and redeem us!

Galatians 4:4-6 (KJV) *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*

Isaiah 53:3-5 (KJV) *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

1 Peter 3:18 (KJV) *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV) *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

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.*

Titus 2:13-15 (KJV) *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. 15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

4. Crowned with glory and honor...

Christ is glorious in many ways. He is glorious in His role as mediator and atoning sacrifice as well!

Philippians 2:5-11 (KJV) *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

5. By God's grace, tasting death for every man!

As we'll see in the next verse, all who believe ("many sons") in Jesus have been granted victory over death because of Christ suffering, death, and resurrection!

“Every man” means *every saved member of mankind*, the elect or predestinated of God.

Romans 8:28-30 (KJV) *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

Ephesians 1:3-6 (KJV) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

Beloved, not all will be saved:

John 5:22-29 (KJV) *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: 23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. 25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. 26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

Merry Christmas Indeed!

Luke 2:8-11 (KJV) *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

At Christmas, we celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Atonement of God for mankind. Believers will inherit eternal life because the Son of God came, lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again.

To know Christ as God, to know Him as man, to know Him as God-man, and this by a divine revelation of His person, is indeed to have eternal life in our hearts. Nor can He be known in any other way than by divine and special revelation. "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me" (Gal. 1:15-16). An imaginary conception of His person may be obtained by

diligently studying the Scriptures, but a vital knowledge of Him must be communicated from on high (Matthew 16:17). A theoretical and theological knowledge of Christ is what the natural man may acquire, but a saving, soul-transforming view of Him (2 Cor. 3:18) is only given by the Spirit to the regenerate (1 John 5:20).³

May we truly “see” Jesus this Christmas, and worship Him for His great love and sacrifice.

Amen!

³ A.W. Pink https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/attributes_online.html#chapter28