

THE PERFECT MAN FOR ALL PEOPLE

GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

DECEMBER 29, 2019

SCRIPTURE READING HEBREWS 2:10-18 (ESV)

“10 ¶ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

12 saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

13 And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

14 ¶ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

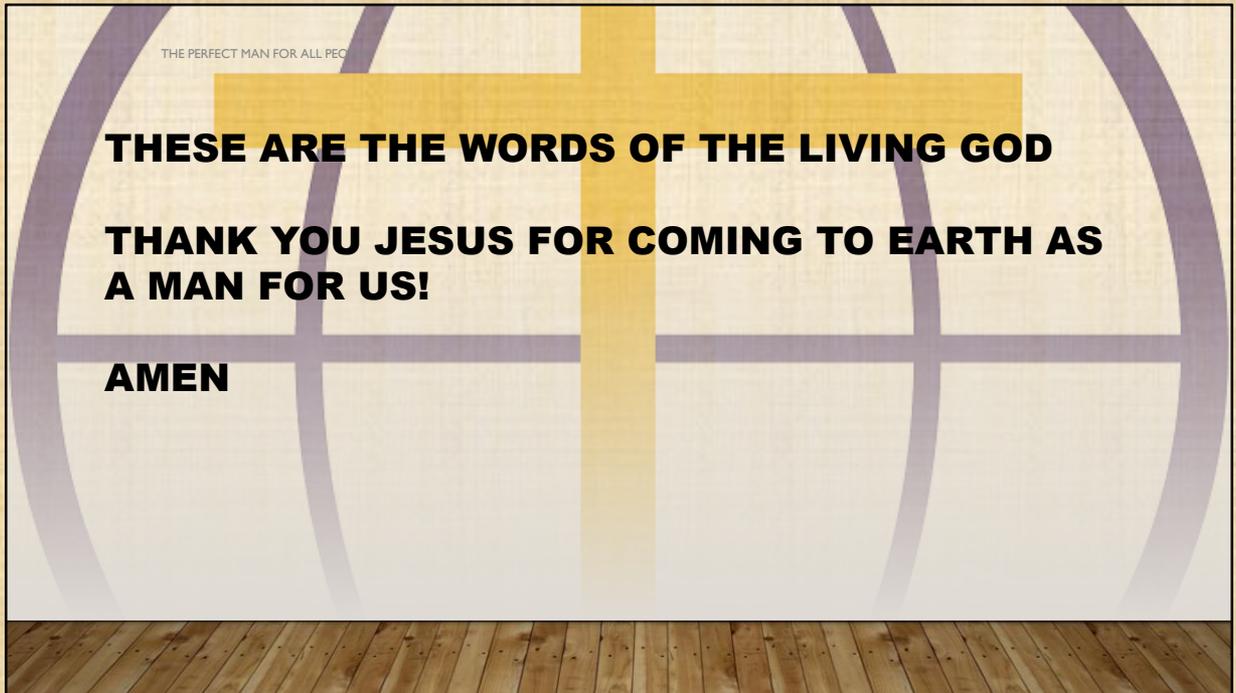
16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.

17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

...

THE PERFECT MAN FOR ALL PEOPLE

18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” (Heb 2:10-18 ESV)



When reading Scripture, it is always important to consider the context.

The author of the book of Hebrews is not known.

The epistle was written before 70 A.D., before the destruction of the temple. One clear indication is Hebrews 13: 23. **“You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon.” (Heb 13:23 ESV)**

Timothy was alive during the time of Paul, before the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D.

The author of the Hebrews neither names himself nor clearly designates his audience. The traditional title "to the Hebrews" reflects the ancient assumption that the original recipients were Jewish Christians. (“Taken from the ESV® Study Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©2008 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News

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In the book of Hebrews, there are five exhortations encouraging people to endure with warnings not to leave Christ. It encourages the followers of Jesus to persevere and to endure.

Some of the Hebrews were not as attentive to the instructions of the apostles. Some were on the verge of denying Jesus. **“23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. 26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,”** (Heb 10:23-26 ESV)

The historical and textual context of Paul's words indicate that by “sinning deliberately,” he is referring to the specific and definite sin (or pattern thereof) of deliberately rejecting and denying the Person and work of Jesus Christ. Some of the Hebrew Christians in Jerusalem were on the brink of definitively repudiating and renouncing the efficacy of the life and death of Jesus; of denying and disavowing that Jesus was God's Messiah and Savior; and of regarding Jesus to be of no value.

(From: A COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS , JESUS IS BETTER THAN EVERYTHING JAMES A. FOWLER Page 321)

The book of Hebrews addresses people living in Jerusalem who were going through difficult times and probably persecution.

The book of Hebrews has no introduction like the other epistles.

The epistle begins by saying clearly that God in these last times, has spoken through his Son who upholds the universe by the word of his power.

The epistle to the Hebrews is a very important epistle. Today, during the sermon, we are going to focus on the last verses of chapter 2.

The chapter begins with a warning.

THE PERFECT MAN FOR ALL PEOPLE

*"therefore we must pay much closer
ATTENTION TO WHAT WE HAVE HEARD,
lest we drift away from it."* -

HEBREWS 2:1

From Word Press.com

"2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard," (Heb 2:2-3 ESV)

The epistle to the Hebrews spoke to those first Christians about the greatness of Jesus. There is great encouragement in this epistle why we need to stay faithful. The reason is Jesus and his important mission when he became incarnate in our world.

Hebrews 2:10-11

¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

(From: Transforming Grace)

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory! This passage begins by a strong encouragement! God is not bringing a few to glory but many! We are not to limit God in his work of salvation. Even if it appears discouraging at times because the state of our world, God's work in this time frame of the new covenant is not finished.

His work of bringing many sons and daughters is growing. What God begins as being small is not a sign of how it will end. The apostle Paul said in Romans 11:33-34, " **33 ¶ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"**" (Ro 11:33-34 ESV)

It is difficult for us to realize that when Jesus came to the earth he came as one of us. He was fully man while being God. When he lived on earth, he lived as a man and he experienced similar challenges we experience in our broken flesh.

As Max located all rights in his book, GOD CAME NEAR, in chapter 2, *"While the creatures of earth walked unaware, Divinity arrived. .. The omnipotent, in one instant, made himself breakable. He who had been spirit became pierceable. He was larger than the universe became an embryo. And he who sustains the world with a word chose to be dependent upon the nourishment of a young girl.*

God as a fetus. Holiness sleeping in a womb. The creator of life being created..

God was given eyebrows, elbows, two kidneys, and a spleen. He stretched against the walls and floated in the amniotic fluids of his mother.

... Angels watched as Mary change God's diaper. The universe watched with wonder as The Almighty learn to walk. Children played in the street with him...

One thing's for sure: He was, while completely divine, completely human.

For 33 years he would feel everything you and I have ever felt. He felt weak. He grew weary. He was afraid of failure. He was susceptible to wooing women. He got colds, burped, and had body odor. His feelings got hurt. His feet got tired. And his head ached.

To think of Jesus in such a light is—well, it seems almost irreverent, doesn't it? It's not something we like to do; it's uncomfortable. It is much easier to keep the humanity out of the incarnation. Clean the manure from around the manger. Wipe the sweat out of his eyes. Pretend he never snored or blew his nose or hit his thumb with a hammer.

He is easier to stomach that way. There is something about keeping him divine that keeps him distant, package, predictable."

It is difficult to imagine that God invaded, came to us as a man just like we are.

Even in the early church, faithful disciples had to deal with people who

tried to deny it.

Heresies denying his full humanity while still being God were the reasons for the writings of the Nicene **Creed**, and the Chalcedonian **Creed**.

One of the heresy that crept into the church was that Jesus physical body while his brain or his mind was divine thus denying his full humanity (Appollinarianism).

They denied that Jesus although one person, had two natures. (from <http://rightreason.org/2015?whats-really-wrong-with-Apollinarianism/>)

Verse 11 is very clear. **“For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,” (Heb 2:11 ESV)**

Our origin, our source is God the Father. Because Jesus became fully human in the incarnation, we call us brothers (and sisters). Jesus is the one who sanctifies us. He has from the Father as we are from the Father humanly speaking.

Jesus completely identifies with us as the prophecy of Psalm 22:22 says. Jesus tells his brothers about the name of God the Father as he glorifies him as he stands up with us in the congregation.

How important it is to be revealed the truth about the incarnation and the truth about Jesus being made human just like we are.

"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

– Hebrews 2:14-15



(From: simplyapreacher.com)

Jesus took on our physical flesh and blood. He was a real human. Like us, he was prone to temptation. Taking on our flesh, he knew he would die.

He submitted himself to the power of sin which is death for all of us. It is difficult for us to understand that in his person Jesus has two undivided natures – the divine nature and the human nature. When he lived on the earth, he did not stop being God but he said that aside to live as one of us guided by the Holy Spirit. He had the fullness of the Holy Spirit living in him ***"And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness" (Lu 4:1 ESV)***

Because he lived perfectly in the will of his Father without ever deviating from it, death had no hold on him because sin is the cause of death.

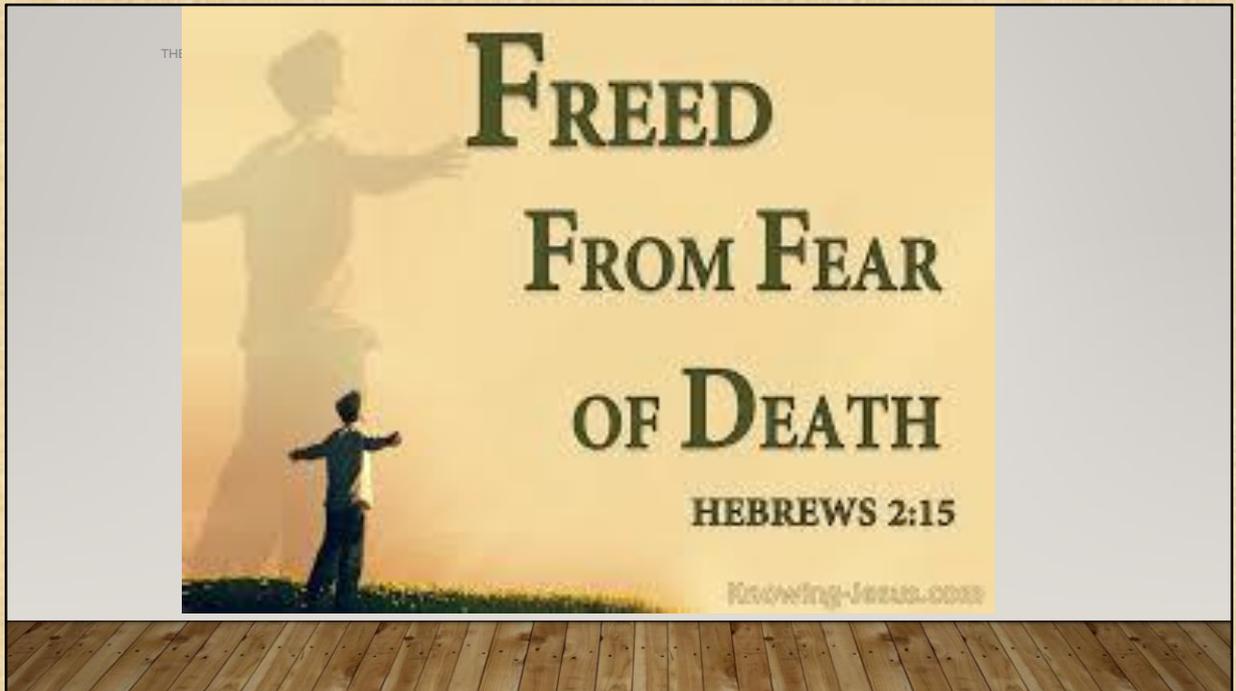
He lived as man should live in this broken world for all of us.

The one who caused Adam and Eve to walk independently from God had

absolutely no hold on Jesus. As the perfect human being, he delivered us from the grip of Satan the devil.

Living under the power of sin causes an enormous fear of death. Jesus, having conquered death, removes that fear. As God's people, we believe in faith that God will not leave us in the ground. He is the resurrection and the life. He is the way. He is the truth. He will resurrect all people. Jesus is the only way to salvation, to eternal life. The condition to have eternal life is to believe in what Jesus has done for us and to live in this new life. We are not to live as slaves anymore to sin but in Christ, we are to live in the faith that leads to obedience to him!

How is the fear of death overcome in Jesus?



How do we overcome the fear of death in Christ? This is a very important question.

1- Death is still an enemy. We still have a lot of unknown about death. We know is the cessation of physical life. Because we have been forgiven at the cross, and because Jesus has conquered that for us, we can trust him. He is the only one who has successfully dealt with and overcome death.

1 Corinthians 15:20 tells us, **“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Co 15:20 ESV)**

Jesus has fallen asleep. He has died. He was raised from the dead never to die again. He is the firstfruit.

There are many to come to the fullness of eternal life after him. Eternal life is so awesome that it cannot be put in words because apart from Christ, no one has lived in this fullness of life!

In the last chapter of his book, the Chronicles of Narnia, C. S. Lewis captures our future in Christ beautifully!

On page 767, this is what he writes as the children were afraid to be sent back to this world,

'There was a real railway accident,' said Alsan (a picture of Jesus) spoke softly. 'Your father and mother and all of you are—as you used to call it in the Shadowlands—dead. The term is over: the holidays have begun. The dream is ended: this is the morning.'

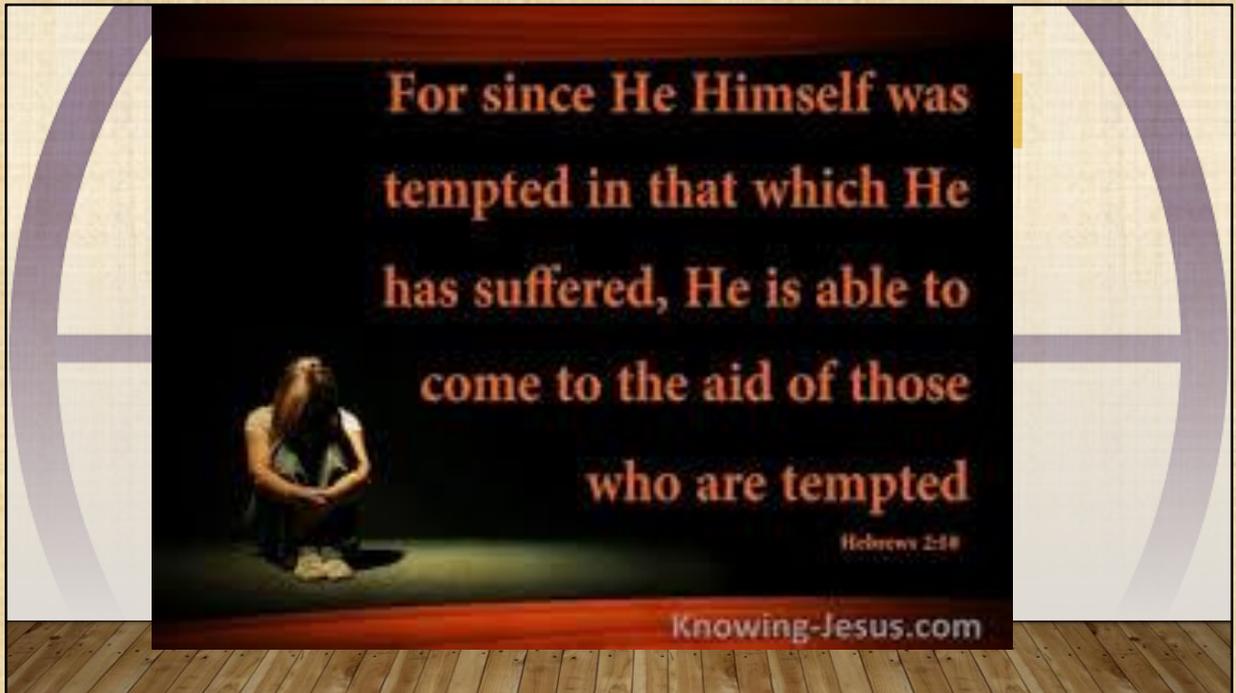
And as he spoke, He no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before."

3- We do not have the fear separation anymore because in the fullness of the kingdom, we will experience the riches and most satisfying relationships we can never imagine. In Christ, we will be in perfect relationship with one another participating in the godly relationship through the man Jesus. Separations of relationships will be no more!

4- Death is the ultimate sense of loss of control. We cannot stop physical death. Our life in this physical body has an end.

However, as believers, we surrender the control of our life to Jesus who has full control! What an awesome liberation that is!





Isn't this such an encouraging verse! Jesus fully experienced our human life. He was tempted just as we are.

For example, he was tempted not to go through the ordeal of the brutal death on the cross. **"And he said, 'Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.' (Mr. 14:36 ESV)**

Just like us, he did not want to face the horror and the shameful death that he was going to face. He was tempted but he did not entertain the temptation. He quickly brought his tempting thoughts in submission to God the Father's will.

We are all tempted but we are never left alone to face those temptations. Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, is always there to help us overcome and to keep us on the right path!

We are freed from the fear of death and from the lies of the Devil!

We are so blessed that the perfect man came to the earth for all people and to make us perfect like he is for all eternity!

Let us praise God the Father in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray and glorify