

# Hebrews: Going Deeper With God

Sunday, March 22, 2015

## Hebrews 2:14-18

### I. Introduction

#### II. Jesus Victorious Over Death (v.14,15)

Jesus became a man, not an angel, to destroy death and free us from its power and fear.

*"The only way to destroy Satan was to rob him of his weapon, death—physical death, spiritual death, eternal death. Satan knew that God required death for us because of sin. Death had become the most certain fact of life. Satan knew that men, if they remained as they were, would die and go out of God's presence into hell forever. Satan wants to hold onto men until they die, because once they are dead the opportunity for salvation is gone forever. Men cannot escape after death. So God had to wrest from Satan the power of death. And for just that purpose Jesus came....Satan's weapon is extremely powerful. But God has a weapon even more powerful—eternal life—and with it Jesus destroyed death....The resurrection of Jesus Christ provides the believer with eternal life. It is the only thing that could ever have done it. Death is the power of Satan's dominion, and when Jesus shattered Satan's power He also shattered his dominion." John MacArthur*

#### III. Jesus Victorious Over Sin (v.16,17)

Jesus became a man, not an angel, to become a high priest to offer Himself for our sins.

##### a) He is a merciful high priest

Merciful refers to one who is actively compassionate or one who is benevolently merciful involving thought and action. It reflects being concerned about people in their need. He had compassion on us as sinners. This means that we should never hesitate to draw near to our Lord for fear of rejection, or for fear that He will not understand.

*"Jesus Christ is not only the Son of God mighty to save, but the Son of man able to feel." JC Ryle*

##### b) He is a faithful high priest

Faithful (Pistos) means trustworthy, dependable, reliable. Pistos is something or someone who is worthy of faith or keeps promises and is applied to God, humans, His Word, etc

Jesus was also a faithful high priest. This refers to His faithful obedience to God in all things, culminating in His perfect obedience in going to the cross. He

always trusted in and obeyed the Father, even to the point of death on the cross. You can trust in a faithful person completely. He will never let you down. So the character of Jesus as merciful and faithful invites us to draw near to Him in our every need.

c) He made propitiation for us  
Jesus death on the cross satisfied the wrath of God for our sins.

Not expiation, but propitiation

*“Our hell he made his, that his heaven might be ours. Never was there such mercy, never such faithfulness, as this!” Philip Hughes*

So we must hold firmly to the biblical idea that Jesus became a man to offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice that the wrath of God demands for our sins.

#### **IV. Jesus Victorious Over Temptation (v.18)**

Jesus became a man, not an angel to help us when we are tempted.

The Life of Jesus and Temptations

- 1) Born with “cloud of illegitimacy” over him
- 2) Struggle to pay bills
- 3) Pain of losing a parent
- 4) Lived in obscurity
- 5) He knew loneliness
- 6) Pain of being underappreciated
- 7) Pain of being misunderstood
- 8) Pain of being slandered
- 9) Pain of being rejected by his own family
- 10) Pain of being abandon by his friends
- 11) Pain and suffering of physical abuse
- 12) Victim of Social Injustice
- 13) Forsaken by God – something we will never experience

#### **V. Conclusion**

- 1) How can a believer who fears death overcome this fear?
- 2) Why is it essential to affirm Jesus’ full humanity? What are the practical ramifications?
- 3) Why is it essential to hold to the doctrine of God’s wrath against all sin? What do we lose if we compromise here?
- 4) Where is the balance between God’s responsibility and ours when it comes to overcoming temptation?