

20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 8 (February 17-23, 2013)

We will continue in our study of the early chapters of Hebrews. The theme of this great epistle is the superiority of Christ over everything and everyone.

Sunday -- February 17 (Hebrews 2:10-13)

Yesterday's study revealed that Jesus had to come to earth to restore man's lost dominion. The **second** reason He came is given in v. 10: "To bring many sons (and daughters) to glory." As He stated in John 14:2, "I go to prepare a place for you" (KJV). His death was the perfect sacrifice for fallen mankind because the wages of sin had to be paid by someone who was without flaw. His death completed His perfection (v. 10), and as a result, we are now part of the family of God (v. 11). Jesus did not call His followers "brothers" and "sisters" until He arose from the grave (see John 20:17). He is now our elder brother and we are joint-heirs with Him, the One who is heir of the entire universe (see Romans 8:17). Glory to His Name!

Monday -- February 18 (Hebrews 2:14-17)

The writer of Hebrews continues to make his point concerning the necessity of our Lord coming to earth as a human being. He teaches that the **third** reason is to disarm Satan and render him powerless. The devil's best weapon is our natural fear of death (v. 14-15). On Calvary, Jesus willingly paid the price (death) for sin, an act that broke the power of our enemy. That was the day death died. Satan is still a roaring lion (see 1 Peter 5:8), but he is now a caged lion because Jesus defeated death on the cross. Many preachers and teachers do not believe in the virgin birth of our Lord. They are eternally wrong, because that miracle was necessary so that Jesus could be fully man (so that He could be tempted) and fully God (so that He could resist temptation and become a perfect sacrifice). Praise Him today for His marvelous plan of salvation.

Tuesday -- February 19 (Hebrews 2:17-18)

The **fourth** reason for the incarnation of Jesus is given in v. 17: "That He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God." God cannot be tempted to sin (see James 1:13), so Jesus willingly took on the limitations of humanity so that He could be "tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). He suffered through Satan's three temptations (pleasure, popularity and power) as recorded in Matthew 4:1-11, but He did not yield to sin (see devotions for March 17, 2012). Therefore, He is able to be **merciful** because He knows first hand the allurements of temptations (v. 18). He is also able to intercede as our High Priest before the Father in Heaven because He has been there and didn't do that! Hallelujah, What a Savior!

Wednesday -- February 20 (Hebrews 3:1-6)

Returning to his theme of the supremacy of Christ, the writer's command is to "fix your thoughts on Jesus." We established the truth that we are "holy brothers" (and sisters) in Sunday's devotions. This 1st verse in chapter 3 is one of my favorite KLU FROG verses (**Keep Looking Up—Fully Rely On God**). The command is to focus on Him since He is **both** an apostle and a high priest. An apostle is one who is sent to speak to man on God's behalf. A high priest is one who speaks to God on man's behalf. Because of His sacrifice on Calvary, we "share in the heavenly calling." Jesus is much greater than Moses, the hero of the Jews. Moses was a faithful servant to our Lord's household, but Jesus, by contrast, built the household of faith by becoming the perfect sacrifice (v. 2-3). We will continue this discussion tomorrow.

Thursday -- February 21 (Hebrews 3:1-6)

Although Moses was one of God's most faithful servants, he was a sinner saved by grace like we are. Jesus, by contrast, is the **Son of God** who rules over God's household because of His sinless perfection (v. 6). Moses prophesied about what would be said and done in the future (v. 5), whereas Jesus perfectly fulfilled **all** prophecy by His birth, life, death and resurrection. Verse 3 declares Jesus to be the builder of the household; verse 4 says, "God is the builder of everything;" therefore, Jesus is God! I must apologize to those who sat under my ministry 30 years ago because I incorrectly used the word, "if," in verse 6 to make you doubt your **salvation. God's Promise**, not your performance, determines your salvation! I failed to separate **salvation** (His Gift) from **His rest** offered to those who trust Him completely. Those who have really given their hearts to Jesus will ask for and receive forgiveness following times of rebellion (1 John 1:9). You are secure in Christ! Relax! The Master is in charge!

Friday -- February 22 (Hebrews 3:7-11)

Today's text is a quotation from Psalm 95:7-11. Note that the author begins, "As the **Holy Spirit** says . . ." He gives no credit to the human author, thus amplifying what Peter wrote: "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20-21). Those who believe that fact will cherish and claim the many promises of God. Verses 7-11 warn about **hearing** the voice of God, but failing to **respond**. Those who make that tragic mistake will never enter God's complete rest (v. 11). Jesus teaches the same truth in Matthew 7:24-27. The brother of our Lord reiterates this warning in James 1:22-25. Please open the door of your heart for His truth!

Saturday -- February 23 (Hebrews: 3:12-19)

The entire passage in today's study continues to warn those who do not follow in obedience to His spoken Word. The warning is given because many people who receive salvation never enter into the complete rest promised to those who **trust Him**. He commands true believers to encourage those who waver in unbelief (v. 12-13). As v. 13 implies, we are still living in the **Day of Grace**, so we must not allow ourselves to be deceived by the pleasures of sin (see Hebrews 11:25). Those who have truly given their hearts to Christ are saved, but there is so much more waiting for those who **trust Him** till the end (v. 14). We have many examples of those who never entered the full rest of God (v. 15-19). I pray that you will be an example of one who will "**Keep looking up—Fully Rely on God**" (KLU FROG).