

SONGS:

CLOSE:

## From The Cradle To The Cross

### Christmas – Part 2 of 2

**TEXT: Hebrews 2:9-14**

#### INTRODUCTION

In the first part of this two part series, we've been looking at **Hebrews chapter 2** as it relates to the subject matter I've entitled, FROM THE CRADLE TO THE CROSS.

It is quite natural to concentrate on the nativity of the baby Jesus and the general Christmas story, but I would like us to briefly go from the reason for Lord Jesus Christ's birth, which we have mainly addressed in part one of this message to His present position and ministry today.

#### **A. In part 1 of this message I said that when we think of Jesus' birth you might bring these thoughts into focus...**

- + Think on those soft little hands, fashioned by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb, were made so that nails might be driven through them.
- + Those little tender baby feet, not having taken a first step and unable to walk, would one day walk up a dusty hill to have those feet nailed to a cross.
- + That sweet infant's face with sparkling eyes and eager mouth was formed so that someday men might spit and smite them, those shining lock budding forth from that delicate head would one day have a crown of thorns forced onto it.
- + That tender body, warm and soft, wrapped in swaddling clothes, would one day be ripped open by a spear.

**Jesus was born to die.**

Jesus death represented a great victory over evil.

#### **B. NOW, from Hebrews chapter 2, we want to look at several things in this victory**

1. In part 1 we only covered THE PAYMENT FOR OUR SIN, while in this message for part 2 we will cover some of the other aspects of His life as ...
2. THE PIONEER
3. THE PERFECTION
4. THE PLUNDER
5. THE PRIEST

**In Part 1 we first saw Jesus as ...**

#### **I. THE PAYMENT FOR SIN**

**Hebrews 2:9** – *“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.**”*

Jesus came into this world a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes. It was at that time that He was made God in flesh – He was created a human – *“made a little lower than the angels.”* – This had to be so as He was to suffer and die in the sinner's place.

This is His **real purpose** in coming into the midst of His creation. **He came to SAVE US – by US I mean ALL of mankind, ALL that His creation that He created in His own image FROM OUR SIN.**

## II. THE PIONEER OF ALL WHO GO TO HEAVEN

**Hebrews 2:10** – *“For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the **captain** of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”*

### A. **Jesus is the Captain of our salvation**

1. The Gk. word for *“Captain of their salvation”* is translated *“the Prince of [eternal] life”* in **Acts 3:15**, but in **Heb. 12:2** it is the *“Author and finisher of our faith”*.
2. The Gk. word for *“Captain”* primarily signifies by all these words one who takes the lead in or provides the first occasion of anything.”<sup>1</sup>
  - a. In **Heb. 12:2**, where Christ is called *“the Author and Finisher”* or complete Prefector of our faith, He is represented as the One who takes precedence in faith and is the perfect Exemplar of it.
  - a. Christ in the days of His flesh trod undeviating from the path of faith and as the Perfecter has brought that faith to a perfect end in His own person.

### B. **Thus He is the Leader or the “PIONEER” of all others who tread the path of faith that leads to heaven**

1. Jesus, you see, tore His way through the wilderness of sin to make a path back to God for us sinners.
3. In doing so, He was whipped, spat upon, bloodied, had His flesh torn open, was slapped in the face, pummelled with fists and then driven to a cross.  
**Oh, yes, the Lord Jesus Christ is the Trailblazer.**

#### 1) **He was the PAYMENT for sin**

#### 2) **The PIONEER of ALL who go to heaven**

## III. THE PERFECTION OF THE SAINTS

**Hebrews 2:11-13** – *“For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, **12]** Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. **13]** And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.”*

### A. **At salvation, we are granted a perfect standing before God, which we call **POSITIONAL SANCTIFICATION.****

### B. **But then, having been in the wilderness of sin, we need some adjustments and so the Lord begins a good work in us to change us into the image of Christ. This is an on-going – lifelong – process. That process is what we call **PRACTICAL SANCTIFICATION.****

### C. **But then, one day, in His presence, in glory, there will be no more sin and we shall be in a state of **PERFECTED SANCTIFICATION.****

<sup>1</sup> W.E. Vine. *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words* (Thomas Nelson Pub.: Nashville, Camden, New York), p.45

1) At Calvary Jesus was the **PAYMENT** for sin

2) Jesus is The **PIONEER** of ALL who go to heaven

3) Jesus is The **PERFECTION** of the Saints

We now move on to the 4<sup>th</sup> great victory that was accomplished at Calvary.

#### IV. THE PLUNDER OF SATAN'S POWER

**Hebrews 2:14** – *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;”*

##### A. The Victory

1. Here in this verse we see that our Lord Jesus Christ abolishes and makes totally non-effective the POWER and plunders, spoils, defeats and overruns the PERSON and enemy of man's soul—I speak of the Devil.
2. Never think, my friends, the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary was akin to some kind of tragedy—**No, No Not At All**. It was a time of great victory and one of the wonderful things He accomplished there was to put the Devil out of the killing business. Amen!
  - a. Did you realize that one of the main reasons for Christmas – for the embodiment of God is flesh was so Christ could deliver a deathblow to Satan?
  - b. Going all the way back to the Garden of Eden, we find the first prophecy ever given about Jesus predicted that He would crush the serpent's head.
  - c. In **Gen. 3:15** right after the fall of man when God told Adam and Eve, *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it [the Seed, the Lord Jesus Christ] shall bruise [snap, break, crush] thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”*
3. Well, did Jesus do as prophesied? Yes, He did and it is written in the NT that the ancient prophecy was fulfilled.
  - a. God sent His Son into the world to do a work and Jesus did the work assigned to Him. **John 17:4** – *“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”*
  - b. One such work Jesus did was to CRUSH Satan's Head.

##### B. Killing a Snake

We all should be aware that snakes, like most reptiles can hurt us by their bite. The venom of a poisonous snake can be fatal.

NOW, if you want to kill such a snake, you don't snip off a small section of his tail – **NO** – you smash his head in—that act will put the snake out of business permanently.

The HEAD speaks of Satan's authority, power, his government and his sway in the lives of men. Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection brought Satan's power to an end.

One of the glorious things that happens in a man's life once that man is saved by God's grace, is that Satan no longer has dominion – i.e. **POWER** over that life.

The apostle Paul wrote to the **Romans in 6:14** *“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”*

### C. Satan's great power is death! You ask, "How so"?

1. NOTE vs. 14 again an see that Satan has *"the power of death."*
2. Satan has at least two objectives concerning mankind: 1) to kill you, or 2) destroy you effectiveness to positively influence others to accept Christ as Saviour.
3. The word translated as *"power"* also has the sense of 'strength.' Satan does not hold the keys of death, but death is of his realm inasmuch as he is the author of sin. He therefore gives strength to death.
4. Satan uses people's *"fear of death"* to enslave them to his will. Often people make wrong moral choices out of their intense desire for self-preservation.
  - a. If the Devil can keep a person living in sin until death, he's got that person forever.
  - b. Someone had to conquer death to destroy Satan's weapon, and that's exactly what Jesus did.
5. When Jesus blew the top off His grave, He stood up, showed Himself ALIVE and said, **John 14:19** – *"... because I live, ye shall live also."*
  - a. In **Heb. 2:15**, believers are reminded that they were no longer subject to such *"bondage"* i.e. the slavery of *"fear of death"* and that they could face death with the same confidence in God their Pioneering Captain had.
  - b. That's why we can say with Paul in **1 Cor. 15:55** – *"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"*
6. Is it not sad a thing to see men taken captive by Satan – doing his dirty work? These men are kidnapped and held captive by him to do his bidding. You ask, *"Where does the Word of God say such a thing?"*
  - a. Paul wrote in **Eph. 2:3** that the unsaved are *"children of disobedience,"* and as such *"oppose themselves"* (2 Tim 2:25).
  - b. BUT with repentance and acknowledging the truth **2 Tim. 2:26** says, *"That they may recover themselves out of the snare [the entrapment] of the devil, who are **taken captive** by him at his will."*

God purposely sent us Christmas.

God sent His Son into the world to accomplish some glorious things at Calvary.

**1) We've seen that at Calvary Jesus was the PAYMENT for sin**

**2) The PIONEER of ALL who go to heaven**

**3) He is the PERFECTION of the Saints**

**4) The PLUNDER of Satan's power**

### V. FURTHERMORE, CHRIST'S DEATH WAS A GREAT TRIUMPH BECAUSE HE BECAME OUR SYMPATHETIC HIGH PRIEST:

**Hebrews 2:17-18** – *"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18] For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."*

**A. That is one of the most remarkable passages in all of Scripture.**

1. *What can this passage possibly mean?*
  - a. Could it be that Lord Jesus Christ learned something in His incarnation He did not know before?
  - b. Absolutely NOT! For sure, we should understand that Jesus, as God is all-knowing, i.e. omniscient.
    - 1) There has never been anything He did not know.
    - 2) It was not a question of His gaining some knowledge or experience that He needed.
    - 3) BUT Jesus needed to be a **sympathetic high priest** and to fulfill that empathy He had to be a man.
    - 4) Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.
2. You see a high priest is a mediator between men and God. To qualify, a mediating high priest would have to understand to some degree the mind of God and also the mind of man.
  - a. **Did you get that statement?** I said a high priest would have to understand to some degree the mind of God and also the mind of man.
  - b. Such an arrangement could only be possible with the very thing we celebrate this time of year – the incarnation
    - 1) What I mean by the incarnation is the embodiment of the deity of God the Son in human flesh as a human man—Jesus.
    - 2) The incarnation is an arrangement where God, remains 100% God, BUT also becomes a man – a complete 100% man.

**B. Jesus was unique! You ask, “Preacher, just what do I mean by that – Jesus was unique?”**

1. Well, He was fully man as though He were NOT God.
2. He was fully God as though He were NOT man. He was fully God, fully man. **Whoopee for that first Christmas!**
3. NOW, if that doesn’t ring your joy bells, you have lost your gonger.
4. Listen to this. Here is how the Word of God puts it in **Hebrews 4:15** – *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”*
5. He was made like us in all things—even to the point of experiencing the same temptations. The only difference is that He was without sin.

He was hungry	He was thirsty	He was overcome with fatigue	
He prayed all night	He slept	He was astonished	He loved
He marvelled	He was glad	He grieved	He became angry
He was troubled	He wept	He read the Scripture	He grew

- a. Jesus is one of us in every sense—the perfect sympathizer
- b. BUT He also is God—the perfect high priest to offer sacrifices and to make intercession for us.

## VI. CONCLUSION

### A. *Take another look at the manger this Christmas.*

1. Look beyond the tender nativity scene, and see what Jesus Himself knew even before He came—He knew that He was born to die.
  - He died for you
  - He bore your sin
  - He purchased your salvation
  - He guaranteed your sanctification
  - He destroyed the enemy of our souls—Satan himself!
  - And He became a sympathetic high priest.
2. Even as we are gathered here this morning, Jesus is seated next to the Father in heaven, ready to make intercession for you

**Hebrews 7:25** – *“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”*

If you don't have Christmas in your heart, you won't find it under a tree, or wrapped up in a box, or on top of a table filled with delectable delights

If you are to have a true Christmas, it will be because you have come to know just why Jesus came and what He did for you at Calvary.

So, how do we end this year and begin the next?

Are you saved? If not, you can be.

If you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you can REJOICE in all the victories of Calvary. Why not take time to thank Him for His precious gifts?

### B. *Invitation*