

4. Understanding Why Christ Delivers Us from the Fear of Death

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand how to explain the danger of neglecting the Gospel to those who have not yet repented of their sin and placed their faith in Christ and the payment that He made for their sin. We mentioned in that topic that those without Christ have a real fear of death. In our topic today, we want to help our children learn how to explain from the Scriptures that Christ has delivered all true Christians from the fear of death.

In Hebrews 2:10-13, we read, “For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: ‘I will declare Your name to My brethren In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.’ And again: ‘I will put My trust in Him.’ And again: ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.’” Here, we see that it was fitting for the Father to provide our salvation through the sufferings of Christ. It is fitting because God is a holy God and must judge sin. It is fitting because the Father could be holy and yet still judge our sin in His own Son so that full payment was made for that sin.

That is why Christ can bring many people to heaven and all of its glory by His payment for our sins. That is why Christ is the captain of our salvation. The word translated “captain” means *the chief leader, prince or author of anything*. The word is used in Hebrews 12:2 where we read, “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Christ is the captain or author of our faith because He is the One who took the lead to pay the penalty for our sin.

Christ was also made perfect through sufferings. As God, Christ was perfect and without sin. By becoming a man, Christ also took on a human nature as the God-man. His human nature was perfected through the obedience that He showed to the Father by paying the penalty for our sin on the cross. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” Here, we see that the Father made Christ to be sin for us so that the Father could place the righteousness of Christ on us.

The word translated “sanctifies” and “sanctified” means *to be set apart*. Christ set us apart from sin so that we are able to serve God. We have been set apart from sin so that means that we are now free to serve God. In fact, Christ is not ashamed to call us His brethren. In John 20:17, Christ told Mary, “Jesus said to her, ‘Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and *to* My God and your God.’”” Christ could call the disciples brethren because He had already paid for their sins. Then, Romans 8:29 says, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Here, we see that Christ is the firstborn among all Christians because we become His brethren. Psalm 22:22 prophesied that we would become His brethren when that verse said, “I will declare Your name to

My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You.”

Verse thirteen quotes two other Old Testament verses. Isaiah 8:17-18 says, “And I will wait on the LORD, who hides His face from the house of Jacob; and I will hope in Him. Here am I and the children whom the LORD has given me! *We are* for signs and wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells in Mount Zion.” Here, we see that in becoming lower than the angels for a little while Christ showed His human nature by His dependence on the Father, which He demonstrated throughout His time on the earth.

We see why this is important for us in Hebrews 2:14-15 where we read, “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.” We as humans with a human nature have flesh and blood. That is something that all humans share. In contrast, the word translated “shared” means *to share something that is not related to what we are*. We humans all have flesh and blood. Since Christ is eternal, He took on flesh and blood at the time He came to this earth. We see that the reason why Christ took on flesh and blood was so that He could be like us and die for us.

Through that death, we see that Christ was able to destroy the one who had the power of death, the devil. In John 10:10, Christ said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.” Satan came to destroy. In contrast, 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 says, “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Satan came to bring death. Christ came to destroy both Satan and death.

By His death, Christ also sets each Christian free from bondage. Before a person repents of sin and places his or her faith in Christ, that person is in bondage (the condition of being a slave). That bondage is the fear of death. In Isaiah 61:1-2a, Isaiah wrote, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.” In Luke 4:18-19, Christ read these verses. Then, He said in Luke 4:21, “And He began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’” Christ came among other things to open the prison for those who are bound and to proclaim liberty to the captives. At the moment that we placed our faith in Christ, we received that liberty.

Hebrews 2:16-18 goes on to say, “For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.” Here, we see what Christ did by coming to this earth. The KJV translation is a more accurate translation where Hebrews 2:16 says, “For verily he took not on *him the nature of*

angels; but he took on *him* the seed of Abraham.” Christ did not take on the nature of angels when He came to this earth. Instead, He fulfilled the promise and took on Himself the seed of Abraham. Galatians 3:16 explains, “Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘*And to your Seed,*’ who is Christ.” Although this is a special promise for all Christians, this is an even greater promise for the Jews.

Then, we see the reason why Christ had to take on human flesh and became fully man as well as fully God. This was necessary so that Christ could be a merciful and faithful High Priest. Hebrews 4:14-16 says, “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are, yet* without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” First, we see that Christ has passed into the heaven so that He can speak to the Father for us.

Second, we see that Christ is able to sympathize with our weaknesses because He was tempted in all of the same ways that we are tempted. 1 John 2:16 says “For all that *is* in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.” We are tempted by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. We need One who was tempted in the same three ways and resisted that temptation to sympathize with us in our weaknesses. We also need One who can give us the strength to have victory when we face temptation.

We also see that Christ was able to make propitiation for our sins. The Father was satisfied with that payment and showed His satisfaction by raising Christ from the dead. In fact, the Father was more than satisfied. Hebrews 10:12-14 says, “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.” Through the blood of Christ, we have been made perfect in the sight of the Father even though we still sin in this world.

We also see that Christ is able to aid us when we are tempted. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it.*” As Christians we all face temptations in this world. However, with every temptation, God has provided a way of escape if we ask for His strength instead of depending on our own strength. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn how to explain this wonderful promise to Christians that may be struggling because they are depending on their own strength. The Lord will provide the way of escape as we yield to Him. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to help others learn to escape the fear of death and also help struggling Christians learn how to have victory over temptation.