

Session 3: Does Practice Really Make Perfect?

Jesus did not have to practice to be made perfect, He was perfect from the beginning!

The Perfect Priest and the Perfect Sacrifice..

Only a perfect priest and perfect sacrifice could open a way for man to have direct access to God.

Only Christ Jesus could do just that.

Perfect Priest because He was both:

- ***Perfectly Human...***
 - *In His humanity, He can take us to God.*
- ***Perfectly God...***
 - *In His Godhead, He can take God to us.*

Angels...ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation.

Jesus...provides the salvation ...or provided the sacrifice for our salvation.

Summary: We don't need human nor supernatural beings to bring us to God. Jesus Christ has broken the barrier down and opened a direct way for us to God.

Hebrews 2.....Broken down into 3 Sections:

- 1. The Salvation We Dare Not Neglect..Hebrews 2:1-4***
- 2. The Recovery of Man's Lost Destiny..Hebrews 2:5-9***
- 3. The Essential and Perfect Suffering..Hebrews 2:10-18***

1st Section: Hebrews 2:1-4, "We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. ² For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, ³ how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴ God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will."

(The Salvation We Dare Not Neglect)

Listen up! Pay attention to what you have heard....

Why? To keep us from drifting away.

Why do we come to church? Why do we study the Word? Why do we make an effort to please God?

So you will not "drift away" from the truth.

The message (the Law) that the messengers (angels) told us was binding.. Transgressions (violations) and disobedience to that message brought “just” punishment.

Transgression (parabasis)....literally means “stepping across a line”

There is a line drawn both by knowledge and conscience, and to step across it is sin

Disobedience (parakoe)...means:

- ***imperfect hearing (someone who is deaf)...and even***
- ***careless hearing (through inattention, either misunderstands or fails to catch what is said)***
- ***unwillingness to hear (disobedience to the voice of God).***

The idea of “a deliberate shutting of the ears” to:

The commands, the warnings, and the invitation of God.

HOW SHALL WE ESCAPE IF WE IGNORE SUCH A GREAT SALVATION?

Three (3) Ways in Which the Salvation Message Is Unique: (v. 3, 4)

1. Unique in its ORIGIN

Direct from Jesus Himself.

No guessing or feeling our way to God.

The very voice of God coming through Jesus, His Son.

2. Unique in its TRANSMISSION

Those who heard from the direct lips of Jesus...

The person who can pass on the Christian truth to others are only those who do not know Jesus “second hand.”

We can never teach what we do not know and we can teach others of Christ only when we know Him ourselves.

3. Unique in its EFFECTIVENESS

It produced signs and wonders and deeds of power of many kinds. Just think of the wonder of your salvation....and the power God has over sin....over the sin that would have taken you to hell...but has made a way for us to be with Him forever.

2nd Section: Hebrews 2:5-9, “It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified: “What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? ⁷ You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor ⁸and put everything under their feet.” In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. ⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”

The Recovery of Man's Lost Destiny...

Psalm 8:4-6, "...what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:.."

When we read Psalm 8:4-6, We must understand something:

Man was destined "to be crowned with glory and honor and have everything under his feet (full authority)."

The Psalm is a great lyric cry of the glory of human life as God intended it to be.

***God left nothing that was not subject to him....However,
Because he sinned, he does not have that authority
(everything under his feet).***

*They (people) are creatures who are frustrated by their circumstances,
defeated by their temptations, and surrounded by their own weaknesses.*

But....But....Praise God!

We see Jesus coming into the picture...The Captain who can steer our ship to the shore...the King who can bring us victory over our circumstances, our temptations and our weaknesses.

Jesus died (suffered) to rid us of our frustration, our bondage and our weaknesses...to give us back the authority we ought to have.

He died to re-create us until we become what we were originally created to be.

3 Basic ideas in this passage:

- 1. God created men and women a little less than to have control over all things. (Shows us the ideal of what we should be...kin to God and rulers of the universe.)***
- 2. Through their sin, they entered into defeat instead of control. (Shows us the actual human condition)***
- 3. Into this state of defeat came Jesus Christ in order that by his life, death and glory he might make men and women what they were meant to be.
(Shows us how the actual can be changed to the ideal through Jesus Christ).***

3rd Section: Hebrews 2:10-18, *"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. ¹² He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers and*

sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.”¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”

The Essential and Perfect Suffering..

The author of Hebrews shows us one of the great titles for Jesus...

He calls Him...the pioneer (author) of glory...and our salvation.

Pioneer...head, chief, the one that started it (Source/Origin).

How was Jesus enabled to take on the role?

God made Him perfect through death (suffering).

Better translated...He was an unblemished sacrifice who bled and died for our sins.

Through suffering, Jesus was made fully able to complete the task of being the pioneer (source...origin) of our salvation.

How can that be?

1. Through His sufferings He identified with us (man)

2. Through This Identity, Jesus Christ sympathizes with us..

He literally feels with us...the hurt, the pain, the agony, and the difficulties...

3. Because He sympathizes with us, He can really help us.

He has met our sorrows;

He has been tempted as we are.

THE RESULT: HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED AND HE CAN GIVE IT!

Where are you struggling today? What do you need from Him?

He knows you...and He can help!

Are you willing to lay your burdens down on Him?