

Sermon Message: Christmas Gospel for a troubled time, Hebrews 2:14-15

Bo Zhou, SLCCC, 12-13-20

Introduction

Scripture reading

Hebrews 2:5-18 ⁵ For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶ It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? ⁷ You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, ⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source.^[b] That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,^[c] ¹² saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers;

in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.” ¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.” ¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

The meaning of Christmas:

- 1、 To fulfill God’s creation mandate for man (v5-9)
- 2、 To accomplish believers’ adoption as sons (v10-13)
- 3、 To deliver believers from the power of death (v14-18)

Hebrews 2:14-15

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

- I. The Reason for Christmas: “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood”
- II. The Event of Christmas: “he himself likewise partook of the same things”
- III. The Result of Christmas: Satan destroyed; believers delivered.

I. The Reason for Christmas: “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood”

A. Who are “the children”?

Ephesians 1:4-5 “.....he chose us in him before the foundation of the world,In love he predestined us for **adoption to himself as sons** through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

Galatians 4:4-5 “time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might **receive adoption as sons.**”

1 John 3:1 “See **what kind of love** the Father has given to us, that we **should be called children of God**; and **so we are.**”

B. What is “flesh and blood”?

Not.....

The sin nature sometimes referred to as “flesh”

Not merely.....

The physical body made of “flesh” and “blood”

But.....

Full human nature: material part + immaterial part

C. “Share”

1. Meaning to “participate in, partake”
2. Emphasis: corporate concept, association with a group
3. Same root as “fellowship”

II. The Event of Christmas: “he himself likewise partook of the same things”

A. “the same things”

1. Plural signifies all features of human nature
2. Main point: fully man

3. "like his brothers in every respect" (v17)
Note: No sin

1John 4:2-3 "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ **has come in the flesh** is from God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist....."

- B. "partook"
 1. Emphasis is not on the change
 2. Meaning to "share in" (same word for communion)
 3. Emphasis: corporate concept, association and identification with a group (basis for 2 Cor 5:21)
 4. Condescending love

III. The Result of Christmas: Satan destroyed; believers delivered.

"that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. "

- A. Keyword: "Death"
- B. Non-believers: lifelong **slavery due to fear of death**
- C. How is it that Satan "has the power of death"?
 1. Under God's ultimate sovereign power and authority
 2. Through **the sting of sin!** (1 Cor 15:56)

Romans 5:12 "..... just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men....."

- D. What does "destroy" mean?
Meaning "make ineffective, impotent, inactive, useless"

1Peter2:24 "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. "

- E. What does "deliver" mean?
 1. No more slavery through fear of death! Assurance of eternal life!
 2. Death, no longer....., but.....:
~~dreadful-dark-end-of-life~~ → bright and beautiful beginning of eternal life!
~~the inescapable path to eternal night~~ → the homecoming gate to God's heavenly kingdom!
~~cold, merciless Grim Reaper~~ → the Father's gracious gift for our final sanctification!

Phil 1:23 "My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better."

Application

A. Non-believers——

1. How long will you avoid the problem of death???

Repent and believe!

B. Believers——

1. Praise, worship and give thanks
2. Know the Lord's compassion and so come to His throne of grace in prayer (Hebrews 4:15-16)
3. Live out your delivered life

Conclusion

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ