

December 24, 2006

Shepherd's Community Church

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Hebrews 2:14-15

“Jesus Christ is Infinitely Better!” (Better than the Angels, Part Eight)

“Born To Die”

- I. Jesus Christ: Infinitely Better in His Person (Chapters 1-7)
 - A. Better than the Prophets (1:1-3)
 - B. Better than the Angels (1:4-2:18)
 - 1. Better because of His **Deity** (1:4-14)
 - 2. First Warning: Danger of Drifting from the Word (2:1-4) [Neglect]
 - 3. Better because of His **Humanity** (2:5-18)
 - a. Made Lower than the Angels (2:5-9)
 - b. Bringing Many Sons to Glory (2:9-18)
 - 1) A Fitting Way to Save (v. 9-10)
 - 2) A Family Way to **Solidarity** (v. 11-18)
 - a) The Fact of Solidarity (v. 11)
 - b) The Character of Solidarity (v. 12-13)
 - c) The Liberation of Solidarity (v. 14-15)

Discussion Questions:

1. Statistics show that people in every culture around the world fear death. Do you fear death? Why or why not? What aspect of death disturbs you the most? Why do people have good cause to fear after they die? (See Heb. 9:27 & Rev. 20)
2. Why talk about death at Christmas time? Isn't this the time to focus on the "birth" of Christ? What does His birth have to do with His death? Why was Jesus born in the first place?
3. Why did Jesus become human (partake of flesh and blood)? Could He have died for us if He wasn't fully man?
4. In what sense did the devil have the power of death? Why does Heb. 2:14 say that he "had" the power of death? If the devil doesn't have the power of death now, who does?
5. The NASB says that Jesus became human "that through death He might *render powerless* him who had the power of death, that is, the devil..." What does the word "render powerless" mean? Does it mean to annihilate the devil? In what sense(s) has the devil been rendered powerless in the life of a follower of Jesus? Are you experiencing that victory right now?
6. How does the fear of death subject us to slavery? What does it cause us to do? What does it keep us from doing? How would your life be different if you had absolutely no fear of death?
7. Jesus came to DIE as our substitute so He could DELIVER us from death. If people refuse to repent of their sins and put their trust in Jesus alone for deliverance what will happen to them when they die? (10:26-31)
8. What would keep you from repenting and putting your trust in Jesus right now?

Admit that you are a sinner and guilty before God. "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23) "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23)

Turn from your sin in repentance. "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;" (Acts 3:19)

Believe and Publicly Confess that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave victorious over sin. "...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation." (Rom. 10:9-10)

Receive God's free gift of eternal life through Jesus. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name..." (Jn. 1:12)
Enter into a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ that will give you forgiveness of sins, the righteousness of Jesus Christ, and eternal life in His presence. He alone can give you victory over death, because He alone conquered the power of sin.

Suggested Prayer - "Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of eternal life. I know I am a sinner and that I cannot deliver myself from you coming judgment. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for my sins, and He rose again from the dead. I now turn from my sins and put my complete trust in the finished work of Jesus alone to obtain eternal life. Come into my life and change me. I will follow You now as my Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me. In Jesus' name, Amen."