**Greater Than All – Hebrews wk 2 – Pay Close Attention!**

**Who do I do if a friend (or self) is struggling to trust Jesus? Maybe you.**

**Only book of the NT that is unclear who the author is… (likely Paul)**

* **Written to Hebrews followers of Jesus thinking about leaving…**
* **Quoting the OT more than any other NT letter**
* **Hebrews is both an encouragement and warning about our definition of Jesus. (Who he really is vs. What we think about him)**

**Chap 1 highlighted - The Superior Savior – That Jesus is God creator of all things in the very flesh – by him, thru him, for him!**

**Hebrews 2:1 Therefore (Because Jesus is Lord of all and greater than all) we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. (This was the issue they are dealing with – there is an urgency in this)**

**Pay close attention to the truth – lest you drift! (Drift away)**

**Slip away. Anchored lest you drift. Tethered in lets you fall from a cliff – wall climbing. The understanding of Jesus will keep you tethered to the power of the gospel.**

**2 For since the message declared by angels (messengers) proved to be reliable, (the OT Word of God) and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, (mankind is held accountable to the word of God) 3 how shall we escape (escape what? Judgement) if we neglect such a great salvation? (Do not take Jesus lightly. If you throw off the message of Jesus – how will you ever escape judgement? You can’t! A warning to not walk away)**

**We are not just “receiving Jesus” - Receiving His love, hope, or forgiveness. We are rescued from judgement by faith in Jesus. This is serious. Those who focus on the grace of Jesus without the justice of Jesus, miss Jesus. Saved from what?**

**(This salvation) It was declared at first by the Lord, (first by Jesus) and it was attested to us by those who heard, (then given by the apostles) 4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed** **according to his will. (The signs and wonders of the apostles confirmed the truth of the gospel. Jesus gave them the authority.)**

**\*\* But do miracles still happen? Yes “according to his will.”**

1. **God does the miraculous as He wills not as we demand.**

**They are not demanded, declared, worked up, mustered up, or brought up by human effort, or our will, or faith… but according to God’s will.**

**Romans 12:11 - God gives spiritual gifts “to each one individually as he wills.”**

**God is in control of miracles and spiritual gifts – not us.**

**Heb 2:5 For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. (Salvation & co-heirs – was not for the angles)**

**6 It has been testified, (Psalm 8) “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? (God is mindful of you) 7 You made him (Jesus) for a little while lower than the angels; (Jesus took on human flesh) you have crowned him with glory and honor, 8 putting everything in subjection under his feet.”**

**While Chap 1 focuses on the Divinity of Jesus - God called Jesus God. The writer is now focusing on the humanity of Jesus. The Messiah is a man - Fully God – Fully Man.**

**8b Now in putting (done) everything in subjection to him, (Jesus) he (God) left nothing outside his (Jesus) control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. (Does not seem so - world is chaos) 9 But we see him (Jesus)**

1. **Christ must be seen with spiritual eyes!**

**We may not understand the pain in the world or our life – but we can see Jesus! Not without natural eyes, but spiritual eyes!**

**John 20:29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”**

**1 Peter 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

**Do you see Jesus? Do you have eyes to see him?**

**The cross is foolishness to those perishing (1 Cor 1:18)**

**Hebrews 2:9 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,**

**33 years – the king of glory took on humanity – took on flesh, suffered a criminal’s cross – and returned to glory and honor!**

**…so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. (This is not universalism – for everyone who believes. Other passages clarify this) 10 For it was fitting that he, (Jesus) for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder (captain, leader, author)of their salvation perfect through suffering.**

**It was “fitting” - It was necessary – the only way. The Creator of all – he alone could bring salvation from our judgment (from which we have no escape) The cross of Jesus is the only way!**

**Jesus was not “perfected” – word means “to make complete – to bring something to an end” Jesus completed salvation!**

**How was this salvation made perfect? Through suffering the cross**

**11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 saying, (PS 22:22) “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.” (Isaiah 8:17) And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.” (Isaiah 8:18)**

1. **You are sanctified and being sanctified!**

**Sanctified – means “set apart.” When we are born-again, we are set apart positionally moved into a place of righteousness in Christ. (We are made children of God) Sanctified (set apart) by Jesus alone.**

**AND - we are being sanctified – the process of change that follows.**

**Sanctification follows those who are truly born again. When you are born-again the HS moves in. The HS in us is calling us, convicting us, leading us to change as we follow Jesus.**

**Are you sanctified – Yes! Are you being sanctified – Yes!**

**If there is no sanctification – there is no true salvation.**

**Keep in mind - this process will take our whole earthly life. God is not done with you!**

**As we stumble through this life, Jesus is not ashamed to call us family! \*\*\* “He (Jesus) is not ashamed to call them brothers”**

**Jesus does not give up his people! The response of the writer quotes – I will PRAISE JESUS! “…in the midst of the congregation, I will sing your praise.” 13 And again, “I will put my trust in him.”**

**Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, (Jesus was not a ghost or apparition – he was flesh, God became a man) that through death (Jesus body absolutely died) he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,**

**\*This is not saying the Devil had authority over earth & people**

**Jesus is and always has been Lord of all.**

**Read scripture through scripture – the issue w/ false teachers**

**Death introduced by the Devil, had power over our bodies. Jesus took that power (death itself) away from Satan.**

**15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.**

1. **In Christ we do not have to be afraid of death! (or Satan)**

**The fear of death and the pain of loss through death is bondage – it enslaves our emotions through anxieties, depression, and fear. Jesus destroyed the power of death!**

**16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. (He did not die for angels, but for humans –those who by faith confess Jesus are descendants of Abraham – Rom 2, Gal 3)**

**17 Therefore he (Jesus) had to be made like his brothers in every respect, (Jesus became FULLY man for his future family) so that he might become (to be, to bring to reality) a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.**

**To a Jewish person the work of the high priest was to constantly go to God for the people. (Making sacrifices)**

**Jesus the High priest. Not just any high priest – but a merciful / faithful / forever. Jesus is the high priest of eternity!**

**He not here to whack you – but to save you (John 3)**

1. **Our guilt and sin were dealt with by a loving and just God**

**Propitiation – showing mercy by receiving wrath! Receiver of divine wrath! Who’s wrath – God’s. Wrath satisfier. The justice and judgment of God was satisfied – in Jesus!**

**Does God love me? Don’t look at your circumstances - look to the cross!! No need to wonder!**

**(Last verse of chap 2) 18 For because he himself was temped and suffered; he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Tempted to stray away)**

1. **Jesus knows what you’re going through**

**He can relate so don’t give up!**

**-Jesus was tempted in every way – yet without sin – Heb 4:15**

**-Tempt is not a sin - The savior was tempted – so will you!**

**-Temptation is not going away! But good news, he overcomes!**

**…he is able to help those who are being tempted.**

**You will have troubles – you will have struggles – you will be tempted to give up… when you are… look to Jesus. Remember the cross – remember what he did – and he is doing in you.**

**(Circle back to the 1st verse) Hebrews 2:1 Therefore (because if this) we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.**

**Some have drifted away… some are walking away… buying a lie**

**A False Gospel - Progressive Christianity**

* **Bible is not fully God’s word (Deny the authority of scripture)**

**God does not speak to people - Bible is a draft a work in progress.**

**Heb 1:1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son…**

**Progressives – their own values and conviction are their final authority**

**Christians – the Bible is the final authority for values and convictions**

 **\* I don’t like it, times have changed “long ago God spoke and now Jesus”**

* **Jesus is not fully God (Deny or downplay the deity of Jesus)**

**\*\* Jesus is more like a role model**

**And since he was more a man, he most likely a sinner like me!**

**CH1 – clearly lays out that Jesus is fully God / CH2 – Fully Man - Non-negotiable. Jesus was without sin – perfect in every way (2:18)**

* **We all go to heaven – hell and judgement is imaginary**

**Jesus is not only way – all spiritual paths lead to God.**

**2:3 …how shall we escape (Judgement) if we neglect such a great salvation? Judgement is real - we cannot escape w/out Jesus**

**2:10 - It was fitting / necessary for the creator to do this!**

**The question has never been, “What must I do to be lost?”**

 **We are! The question is, “What must I do to be saved?”**

* **Sin is relative - No change is needed to follow Jesus**

**Just believe and live like you want – Sin is redefined.**

**2:11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source.**

* **The cross was not necessary for sins**

**But by dying he showed us Gods love and the love we are to have – the cross was simply an example of how to love.**

**It is a denial of Penal Substitutionary Atonement**

**10 - salvation was made through suffering**

**17 – Jesus offers the sacrifice of himself for our sin**

**1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness."**

**1 Peter 3:18—"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God."**

* **God did not send Jesus to die for sins**

**Some will say Jesus was simply a ransom to Satan – Not to God. A loving Father would never send his son to do that.**

**17 …a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. #Propitiation**

**Cosmic child abuse – sure if Jesus is not fully God. But he is – this was not a dad giving his child, this was God sending God. If you think that, that just shows you don’t know who Jesus is.**

**Romans 3:25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood - to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness… (1 Tim 2:6 – Christ gave himself as a ransom)**

**2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

**There are churches – people – authors – speakers – some good intentioned and some outright wolves - will try to pull you away!**

**The writer reminds us –**

**Jesus is Fully God – Fully Man – God on earth – who suffered for our sins and satisfied the justice of God – so we could be his family and know the God through Him!**

**Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.**