

**Hebrews**  
**Chapter 2:11-18**  
**“The Great God-Man”**

**\*All scripture references are from the NASU unless otherwise noted\***

Calvary Chapel Fellowship of Enid  
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The theme of **Hebrews** hasn't changed ... it's still the superiority of Christ.

- 1.** He's superior to angels and all other messengers
- 2.** He's superior to the Law
- 3.** He's superior to man and all his mighty efforts
- 4.** And He's superior to all forms of religion

And on that list, we transition this morning from Christ's superiority over all messengers (angelic and earthly) to Christ's superiority over the Law.

So, let's pick it up where we left off last week ...

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**Verses 11-13:** Jesus unashamedly calls us His brethren ...

**Q. Any of you have a family member that embarrasses you a little? Someone you're a little ashamed of?** – In many ways I've been that person in my family.

But Jesus isn't ashamed of me. He's not ashamed of you either!

But in truth ... we're sometimes ashamed of Him ... at least, embarrassed by Him. It's lunacy, but it's true.

**Q. And why does He call us His brethren?** – Simple ... because we have the same Father.

Now, although God is the Creator of all mankind, He's only the Father (The Abba ... Daddy [Romans 8:15]), of those who've submitted themselves to Him.

**Q. Who is He to you? Merely your Creator ... or is He your Father?**

**John 1:12 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**

The family of God is no different than the family of any patriarch. In Christ we're

brothers and sisters.

**Q. But how often do we fail in our consideration of all the people Jesus calls our brethren?** -- We put too often put extraneous qualifications on that title. Qualifications that are not biblical. And in that ... we fail to “unashamedly” consider them family.

And as an example to us, Jesus shows us what brotherly love really looks like ...

- 1.** First, He proclaims the name of God within the congregation.
- 2.** He leads His brethren in worship of the Father.
- 3.** He leads by example by putting His trust in the Father.
- 4.** He encourages the family in unity.

Those are the four listed ways Jesus shows brotherly love.

And since those are examples for us ... what follows is ...

**Q. How are you doing in these areas?**

- 1. Q. Are you loudly proclaiming the name of God within the congregation?**
- 2. Q. Are you worshipping fervently?**
- 3. Q. Are you trusting the Father as an example to those around you? Or are you fussing and worried too much?**
- 4. Q. Are you a unifier of the family or are you a divider?**

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**Verses 14-15: ... since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same ...**

Jesus shared in our earthly experience ... from elation to suffering!

To the world ... death is when our consciousness is separated from our body. When brainwaves cease. When there's no longer any conscious activity in the physical brain.

But the Biblical definition of death is a little different. When the Bible speaks of death it's generally referring to the separation of our consciousness from God.

And it's that death that Jesus came to save us from. And it's that death that He tasted in our stead ...

**Mark 15:34 At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "... MY**

## **GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"**

Jesus endured separation from the Father so that you and I would never have to. As He said in ...

**John 11:26 ... everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.**

As God, Jesus could not die, but ... if He didn't die, the penalty of sin could not be paid, because the price of sin, as we know, is death (**Romans 6:23**). Someone had to die so that forgiveness could be justly offered.

Jesus had to become a man ... He had to put on mortality so that He could die. And because He did, those who've placed saving faith in Christ will never experience separation from the Father.

And then in **verse 15**, it says that Satan has the "**power of death**".

**Q. But which death ... physical death or spiritual?** – Well, in reality, Satan has the power of both.

In fact, his chief purpose on earth is to separate man's consciousness from God (**John 10:10**).

And as we look at the **book of Job**, we learn that he also has the power of physical death.

Think back to what happened the first time Satan came before God's throne. That's when he was given authority over Job's wealth and over his family.

**Q. And what happened?** – Job's wealth was wiped out and all ten of his children, along with all but four of his servants, were killed in a windstorm.

And the second time he came before God's throne, the Lord said to him ...

**Job 2:6 ... "Behold, [Job] is in your power, only spare his life."**

Well, God wouldn't need to say that if Satan had no power over physical life ... so we know that he does. And that's what this morning's text is referring to ... physical death.

Jesus didn't live and die to set us free from fear of spiritual death ... He very much intends that we have a fear of spiritual death ... it's the fear of physical death that His work frees us from.

**Q. But shouldn't it frighten us that Satan has the power to physically kill?** – Not at all! Because, just as we see in the story of **Job** ... any power Satan has, or exercises is a power granted to him by God.

Before Satan can affect circumstances or events to the extent that they could result in my death ... it must be filtered through the hands of God.

So, if we trust the Father, there's no need for worry or fear.

But it says in **verse 14** that Satan's power over death has been "**rendered powerless**".

**Q. But what's the deal? I mean people still die right?** – Sure, they do!

Believers and unbelievers alike. But notice it doesn't say his power over physical death has been annihilated or removed ... only that it's been rendered powerless.

It's like giving him access to a bank account that has no money in it.

**Q. What harm can he really do with this power over our physical life?** – Scare us! That's it! The only power Satan has is through fear. We've seen a very recent example of this with Covid19. Some were very frightened by it and it's potential to do physical harm. Others ... couldn't care less!

Satan said back in ...

**Job 2:4 ... all that a man has he will give for his life.**

That's a very telling statement ... **all that a man has he will give for his life.**

Satan's counting on the fact that human's being will love this life more than the hope of Heaven!

And indeed ... compelled by their fear of death ... people are spending millions and millions to add months to their life. An ever-growing number of people are even having their heads fast frozen at the moment of their inevitable death ... thinking that maybe they'll get another shot at earthly life when technology catches up with their hope.

And **this morning's text** warns us that the unchecked instinct of self-preservation is a powerful tool in Satan's hands. It makes us a slave to fear and it makes us easy to manipulate.

Job got it right when he said ...

**Job 13:15 Though [God] slay me, yet will I trust Him. ... NKJV**

\*If you're a born-again man or woman ... then physical death means that you're set free from the concerns and worries and struggles of this life.

\*It means that you leave the tent and move into the mansion.

\*It means that you depart from this company of lovable, but sinful people

and live eternally in the presence of the loving and sinless Creator.

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**Verses 16-18:** Had Christ's mission been to save the angels ... then His Heavenly existence would have been an adequate example, but because He came, not to save angels, but rather to save fallen man, it was necessary for Him to take on the limitations of man in order to save him.

Jesus said to the Father in **John 17:4** ... "I ... hav[e].. **accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.**

And that work was to make "**propitiation**", or as some other translations render it, "**reconciliation**" for man. The reconciliation of man to God and God to man by the reconciling, spilled blood of the God-man, Jesus Christ.

As it says in ...

**Romans 3:25** whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed

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Look again please at ...

**Hebrews 2:17** ... He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God ...

Jesus came into this world like every other child ... through natural childbirth. And He lived in the same fallen world and was subject to the same laws (both God's and man's) that everyone else was.

He had human substance ... no different than you and me. He was limited by the same fleshly constraints that we are.

When He was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He said to His disciples ...

**Matthew 26:38** My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death ...

So, He had a soul [psuche (psoo-khay')] ... a consciousness and because of that He was subject to the same human emotions we are.

Like any other human being, He suffered hunger (**Matthew 4:2**), He thirsted (**John 19:28**), He grew weary (**John 4:6**), He felt physical pain and emotional hurt (**Luke 19:41 & John 11:35**), He was subject to temptation (**Hebrews 4:15**) and He was vulnerable to human death (**Luke 23:46**).

And through those points, the author wants to make sure we don't try to look upon the life

examples of Christ and say, "Well it was easy for Him to live a sinless life and to have great faith and perform miracles because He's God."

Jesus was, without a doubt God, but He was also 100% human when He set those examples.

Jesus didn't exercise His deity while He was on earth.

\*That means that when He turned the water to wine (**John 2:1-11**), it was without exercising His own divine power.

\*When He healed the blind (**John 9:1-41**) and raised the dead (**Matthew 9:18-19**), it was without exercising His own divine power.

\*It means that all the times He read the thoughts of men (**Matthew 9:4**), ... it was from within the limitations of the human flesh He wore.

\*More importantly, it means that when He turned the other cheek (**Luke 6:29**), and gave His shirt to the one suing Him for His jacket (**Matthew 5:40**), ... He was a man, just like you and just like me.

\*When He cried from the cross, "**Father, forgive them**" (**Luke 23:34**), He was no more empowered to do so than we are.

**Q. So, where does that leave us?** – Well ... in short ... it leaves us without an excuse!

**Q. So, if Jesus, while He was on earth, didn't exercise His own divinity ... how did He do such incredible things?** -- The same way we're instructed to do them ... by the power of God as imparted to us through His Holy Spirit.

And God's Spirit hasn't changed ... meaning that the only difference is the willingness of the human agent.

Jesus didn't allow Himself to be distracted from the fulfillment of His divine purpose. And it's to be the same for us. We too are here for a divine purpose ... don't allow yourself to be distracted from it.

This passage encourages us that, as Christians, we need not fear death. In fact, to do so, is to make yourself vulnerable to the schemes of Satan.

The threat of death should not stir us. And if we fulfill the objective of our earthly time ... even at the Judgment Seat of Christ ... we'll have no regrets either.

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**Conclusion:** Someone wrote ...

**Q. “Is it not strange that we need to be urged to do the very things we profess to have adopted as our chief business?” –**

Suppose a man answers a rancher's ad for a farmhand.

The farmer says, ‘I want you to plow that field and put in a crop, and I will pay you so much.’ The young man accepts the offer and ostensibly goes to work. Yet all summer long the farmer and his family have to keep coaxing the young man to go out and plow.

The farmer even hires another man just to come once a week and urge the young man to plow.

It’s ridiculous of course ... no farmer would tolerate that ... and no farmhand would be so unreasonable as to think that that conduct would be tolerated.

Still, the ways of too many of the Lord's so-called servants are not too different.

You shouldn’t have to be exhorted ... and certainly not coerced into plowing when that’s the assignment you’ve received and accepted. In honesty ... you shouldn’t even need to be encouraged.

We all need to make up our mind as to what our business really is in this world and then set about accomplishing that business ... not allowing ourselves to be distracted nor diverted. That’s the example Jesus set!

**Q. So with that in mind ... would you consider this list with me one more time?**

**1. Q. Are you faithfully proclaiming the name of God within the congregation? Regularly pointing people back to Him?**

**2. Q. Are you worshipping with your brothers and sisters? Leading them in the praise of His name?**

**3. Q. Are you leading by example by putting your trust in the Father? Or are you one who’s always fussing and worried?**

**4. Q. Are you a unifier of the family or are you a divider?**