

**HEBREWS 2:10-13****The Founder of Salvation - Part 2**

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**Hebrews 2:9-13**

Let me try to bring us up to speed in the sequence of thought in chapters 1 and 2 of Hebrews.

**Chapter 1 <sup>1</sup>**

First, the writer wants us to realize that Jesus Christ is not an angel - He is worshiped by angels (1:6) because Jesus is himself God (1:8). He is God's final decisive word to the world in these last days. God has spoken to us in these last days by His Son (1:2). And this writer wants us to join the angels in worshiping this great God-revealing, God-expressing Son.

So he piles up glories in this chapter about the Savior: he is the heir of all things; through him all things were made; he is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of God's nature; he upholds the universe by the word of his power; he made purification for sins once for all time and then sat down at the right hand of the Majesty of God in heaven where he reigns today until all his enemies are put under his feet (1:13), where he send out angels to do his bidding (1:14)

So he celebrates in chapter 1 the greatness of his Son who is the living final Word of God.

**Chapter 2**

Then, on the basis of that tremendous celebration of the greatness of Christ, the writer in chapter 2 he says, "don't neglect this great salvation" "give heed to this Word" "don't drift away from what you have heard."

He is warning us about the utter craziness of not paying attention when he says in **v.3**, "*How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?*" He says it is suicidal to hear about such a great Savior and such a great salvation and then to neglect it by busying ourselves with other things and prove by our neglect that we do not think it is great, and showing that perhaps we have never really seen it and tasted it in truth.

Then he goes on to talk in **2:5ff.** about *what the greatness of our salvation really is*. And HOW he

does this, *and this it important for today, because he this thought continues into our passage today*, is in **2:6-8** he quotes Psalm 8 about how man is crowned with glory and honor and has all things in subjection under his feet. And what he focuses on is the purpose of God for us humans to one day have a magnificent position of glory and honor under God and over the creation he has made

But he is not naïve. He knows that this great destiny appointed for man is not now a reality. So he says at the end of **verse 8**: "*Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.*" We die. We suffer. We do not yet see all things subjected to man as the Psalm says. So how is this a Great Salvation? If Ps. 8 holds glory and dominion and majesty for human beings, and what we really have is cancer and arthritis and depression and disease and aging and death – then where's the great salvation promised to us in v.8? **His answer is v.9.**

**Jesus Is the Founder of a New Humanity**

The answer the writer gives is that Jesus Christ came into the world as a human being so that he could be the Founder or Forerunner of a new humanity that will burst the bonds of sin and futility and death and enter the glory and honor promised by God.

This is what he says in **verse 9**. We don't see all things yet subject to man, but what do we see now?

**Hebrews 2:9 (NIV)<sup>9</sup>** *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

In other words, even though you and I do not yet have the glory and honor promised in Psalm 8 because we still suffer and die, nevertheless Jesus has come into the world as a human being and has broken through the futility and death and risen into the glory and honor promised to us so that he is our "Captain" or "Founder" or "Author."

**He Is Bringing Many Sons to Glory**

The reason I call him a Founder or Author is because verse 10 makes clear that what the Son of God was doing when he became a human being was **Hebrews 2:10** *In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom*

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to John Piper for much of this message.

*everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.*

Now there are a lot of important things to see in that verse, but notice first just this: what God is doing in sending his Son into the world to suffer is *bringing many sons to glory*.

What glory is he talking about? It's the same glory promised in Psalm 8 in **Hebrews 2:7**, "*You have crowned him with glory and honor and appointed him over the works of your hands.*" This is the glory we have fallen from in our sin and rebellion against God. But now God is undertaking a "*great salvation.*" He sends his Son to taste death for us, deliver us from the futility and defeat and misery and condemnation of sin and death, and lead us to glory. To do this he has suffered and entered before us into that very glory, as **verse 9** says: "*Jesus, because of the suffering of death [is] crowned with glory and honor.*"

So he is our Forerunner. He becomes a human being. He suffers and he dies in our place. He rises from the dead, victorious, and he enters into glory. Why? So that he might "*lead many sons to glory.*"

So what we need to see here is that the writer is still talking about the "Great Salvation" mentioned in verse 3.

This is a *great salvation because the destiny we are saved for is great: we will one day break free from death. *There will be no more cancer... paralysis... arthritis... blindness... depression and corruption and futility. We will finally inherit the glory of the risen Son of God. He has been crowned with glory and honor (2:9); and that is where he is leading us.**

And it is a *great salvation because the Savior is great: This is the *Son of God* who came, *not* an angel, *not* a mere human being, but the Son of God, who is God—worshiped and revered forever. No one less than God has come to lead us to glory.*

So, would you agree, this is a great salvation because the Forerunner is great and because the goal is great? The Forerunner is the Son of God and the goal is glory of God.

## What Is the Opposite of Neglecting Our Great Salvation?

This is the Salvation he is talking about when he said in v.3 "*beware lest you neglect such a great salvation?*" Do you take the greatness of it for granted? One of the reasons for weakness in the

Christian church is that so many neglect the greatness of their salvation. **Ask yourself how much mental energy do you spend to occupy yourself with the greatness of your salvation**, compared to what you expend on finances, job, family?

What is the opposite of neglecting your great salvation? **Hebrews 2:1** says *it's "paying close attention to what we have heard."* **Hebrews 3:1** says it's to "*consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.*" **Hebrews 3:12–13** says it is "*taking care lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart . . . but encouraging one another day after day . . . lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*" **Hebrews 4:16** says it is "*drawing near to the throne of grace for help.*" **Hebrews 10:23** says it is "*holding fast our confession without wavering.*" **Hebrews 10:35** says it is "*not throwing away your confidence which has great reward.*" **Hebrews 12:1–2** says it is "*running the race set before us by looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.*" **Hebrews 12:25** says it is "*not refusing him who is speaking from heaven.*"

**Not neglecting your great salvation means applying yourself to THINK about your salvation; and to MEDITATE on why it is great; and to focus on the greatness of Jesus Christ the Forerunner, Captain, Pioneer, and Perfecter of our salvation.** Not neglecting is the opposite of coasting and then dabbling and then forgetting.

My brother and I collected coins zealously for several of my growing up years. We had dozens of those foldout blue books that had each coin ordered by year and place of minting.

Then something happened. I cannot tell you what happened. We started to "not do it." We began to neglect it. Other things started to draw us away. We stopped focusing and began to drift. In fact, when we wanted some money for ice cream or a treat, sometimes we started robbing the blue books...

Today, I have no idea where all those blue books are. Perhaps they would have been worth thousands of dollars, but today there is no connection.

Maybe with you it was dolls, or baseball cards, or model airplanes. Once there was intense interest, and then neglect and drifting and forgetting.

That is the way many people experience the Christian faith. There's this "spurt." This flowering of zeal and interest...and then, weeks pass. No prayer. No time spent in his Word. It's easy to skip

worship. The weather is good. There's the beach or the boat or the family. And little by little, you wake up one day, and it's over. It's over. It's not only the collected, it's forgotten, and your cold. And there may be no return, according to Hebrews 12. Maybe.

And that's what the book of Hebrews is meant to help us prevent. *Don't neglect it. It is a great salvation! It's 10,000 times more great than dozens of full, blue coin books.*

If you say, "What is the book of Hebrews?" The book of Hebrews is one extended, God-given help not to neglect our great salvation. Hebrews is a long meditation on the magnificence of Jesus Christ and greatness of our salvation.

So if you don't want to neglect your great salvation let the book of Hebrews model for you how you can do that. Because this book models for us what we can do with our great salvation. We can ponder its greatness, and probe into why it is the way it is, and dig to the very bottom of why our salvation took place this way and not that way. That's what this writer does. And he is doing it to help us do it. This is God's Word to help us and teach us *not* to neglect our great salvation.

### How Hebrews Encourages Us to Value Our Salvation?

So, in our time left, let's look at how it does this in verse 10. This is the writer's meditation on part of the greatness of our salvation, namely, *how fitting it was that the Son of God, who is very God, should suffer as a human being?*

Verse 9 ends by saying he tasted death for us. Then verse 10 explains WHY this was fitting, or appropriate, **Hebrews 2:10** *In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.*

So the writer is doing what we need to do often. And he is pondering WHY Christ suffered. He is probing into why it was "fitting."

This is a remarkable thing. Think about it. You might think, "Well God is God and he can save any way he pleases. If he does something, it is good and right. He is God. So don't try to probe into whether his way of salvation is "fitting" or not. Just accept it."

But that is not the way our writer thinks about God and about salvation. He thinks that if God does it

there must be something deeply "fitting" about it. There must be something coherent or symmetrical or beautiful about it. You see, that's one way not to neglect our great salvation - by thinking about this. It involves asking why God did it the way he did it and coming to conclusions that cause us to worship and rejoice and obey.

### THREE REASONS of the It Was Fitting That the Son of God Should Suffer

So let me mention at least THREE THINGS that I see in this text (not the only things) that account for the fittingness of Christ's sufferings. That's what verse 10 says is fitting: that God should perfect his Son through sufferings as a way of bringing many sons to glory.

#### 1. The Means of "Perfecting" the Son

First, notice that these sufferings are seen as the means by which God "perfects" his Son. What does that mean? Does it mean that Jesus was sinfully *imperfect* and had to suffer in order to rid himself of sin? No, because this book, more than any other letter, is insistent that Christ was free from sin (4:15; 7:26; 9:14). What then? **Hebrews 5:8-9** gives the answer:

**Hebrews 5:8-9** *Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered <sup>9</sup> and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him*

Here being "*made perfect*" means "*learning obedience through suffering*". This does not mean that he was once disobedient and then became obedient. It means that Jesus came into the world untested in suffering (he never suffered). So he moved from *untested obedience* into suffering and then through suffering into *tested and proven obedience*. And this proving himself obedient through suffering was his "being perfected."

Now the writer says (in Hebrews 2:10) that it was fitting for Christ to attain this proven perfection through sufferings. Why? **Because Christ in leading many sons to glory the Forerunner must not only experience what we experience, but SUCCEED WHERE WE FAILED!** We have all suffered and failed to be perfected by it. Instead we murmur and complain and get angry at God and his providence. It's happened to all of us, hasn't it? In this way we will never attain the glory of God. Psalm 8 will never be true for us.

Someone must come and rescue us and lead us to glory. And if Christ is going to lead us to glory, then he must succeed in sufferings where we failed. And He did! He was perfected in them. He always obeyed when tested, even when tested with the most horrible sufferings. So he is a fitting Captain and Forerunner and Founder to glory. And the salvation he accomplished is the greater for this fittingness.

## 2. For the Sake of Unity, among all His children.

Here is a second reason that it is "fitting" that Christ lead many sons to glory through sufferings. I get this from the connection between **verses 10** and **11**.

One great aim of God in salvation is that he have a great unified family of children with Jesus Christ, being essentially different from and yet deeply united to his other human brothers and sisters. **But if all the brothers and sisters in a family have experienced suffering except one, the unity is jeopardized.**

And so for the sake of a common spirit of unity and camaraderie, even in suffering, Christ takes on human nature and leads many sons to glory through suffering and death. (He wants to be a good older brother.)

Verse 10 says that it's fitting for God to bring many sons to glory through the sufferings of his Son. And then verse 11 gives a reason for why it is fitting:

**Hebrews 2:11-12 (NIV)**<sup>11</sup> *Both the one who makes men holy (Jesus) and those who are made holy (the brothers he is leading to glory) are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, (Ps.22) "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."*

In other words, the reason it is fitting for Christ to suffer to lead many sons to glory is that this suffering expresses his being a good brother. Let yourself think on this. Give some time to pondering this truth: that Christ suffered—his Father willed that he suffer (really suffer horrendous pain!)—because God aims to create a family that is so unified and so deeply interwoven that the family would be jeopardized if the perfect, oldest brother does not go through all the pain of the rest of the children. This too is part of what makes our salvation great.

## 3. Displaying the Infinite Value of the Father's Glory

Finally, here's a third reason why it is fitting for

God to bring many sons to glory through the sufferings of his Son. **Because the sufferings of Jesus magnified the worth of God more than anything else could.**

I get this from the key phrases in **verse 10**:

**Hebrews 2:10** *In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God (the Father), for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.*

Notice the crucial words, **for whom and through whom everything exists**. It was fitting for this God to lead sons to glory through suffering. Which God? The God "**for whom and through whom everything exists**." In other words, All things exist for the glory of God—to show how all-sufficient and all-satisfying God is in himself.

So, God pondering how to save the human race God says "it will be fitting if I save them in a way that is for me."

Now, get this. When Jesus suffered, evidently it showed the glory of God. **Evidently because the willingness of his Son to suffer is the brightest display of the Father's glory in all the universe.**

Why? If you read the rest of the book of Hebrews you'll see that in the book of Hebrews that the horizontal level, what enables you and me to glorify God, is by suffering with confidence that glory is coming.

You see it over and over again. (We don't have time but we will do this later.) What sustains Christians and glorifying God, is the hope of glory.

So with Jesus. **Hebrews 12:2** says that Jesus "*endured the cross and despised the shame for the joy that was set before him.*" What joy? The joy of sitting down at the right hand of God's majesty surrounded by a countless company of worshiping brothers and sisters, worshiping the King of glory.

This is the ultimate reason that it was fitting for such a great and glorious God to lead many sons to glory through the suffering of his Son is that it magnifies the glory of God most. This is finally why our salvation is so great. It is a salvation that has God at the beginning and God at the end. How can it not be an unspeakably great salvation?

## CONCLUSION

So I plead with you, as I will plead with you throughout the book of Hebrews, do not neglect this great salvation!

To unbelievers here. The reason you are here this morning is that God is moving in your life to get you to hear about this great salvation.

Believer, don't neglect this great salvation. Don't do that "coin collecting" thing. Let Hebrews model for you how to meditate on the glory of his great salvation. Let's pray.