

HEBREWS – LEVITICUS
Hebrews 2:10-18
April 2, 2023

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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. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, 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.¹

“This is the Word of God” – “Thanks be to God.”

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Heb 2:10–18). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Thanatophobia is the fear of death. The Cleveland Clinic site states that “While it’s natural to feel anxious about death from time to time, thanatophobia is an anxiety disorder that can disrupt every aspect of your life.”²

There are pages online dedicated to this fear and once something gets assigned as a “phobia” it is defined as creating an intense sense of worry or panic about certain activities, objects, or situations.

While we’re not going to do a study or survey today, it is commonly understood that many people do not enjoy talking about, discussing, or experiencing death. It may not be a phobia...but it is common among many to desire avoidance of death altogether. This avoidance can result in fear. Our avoidance of death leads to a softening of the terminology used, as I have stated prior. Rather than speak of death, we couch our discussions in phrases like “passed away,” “passed on,” “graduated,” or some such phrase created solely to make us feel better and not have to say “died.”

As we continue through this letter to the Hebrew believers, we cannot avoid the reality of death. God brings us head-on into the truth regarding death and what it means. For without this understanding, the life we so long to have will never be fully experienced.

We have spoken of Christ’s sovereignty and superiority. He is the creator, second person of the Trinity – fully God and known as “Son of God” but fully man and as he called himself over eighty times in the gospel accounts “The Son of Man.” Christ is the center. He is the key.

² “Thanatophobia (Fear of Death): Symptoms & Treatments.” *Cleveland Clinic*, <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/22830-thanatophobia-fear-of-death#:~:text=from%20Cleveland%20Clinic-,Thanatophobia%20is%20an%20intense%20fear%20of%20death%20or%20the%20dying,every%20aspect%20of%20your%20life.>

Even as we study and focus upon him, the writer ensures that we understand the fullness of *who* he is and in so doing, the topic shortly drives head-on into death.

FOR AND THROUGH

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.**

It was fitting that he, Christ...for whom and by whom all things exist is defined this way.

Pause on that statement for just a moment. This is declarative and needed. For the Hebrew Christians being magnetically drawn back to their incomplete view of God due to fear, wrestling with what to do with their understanding of Christ now with so much pressure from family and friends, not to mention the government...this message is a reminder.

Christ – for whom and by whom all things exist! Christ is the end and the means to the end. He is the goal of history and the agent of history. In Romans, Paul stated that all things are to him, through him, and for him. History is not anthropocentric – man-centered. History is theocentric – God-centered.³ This is no small thing.

This, in and of itself, shifts the natural worldview of every person in this room and throughout history. Our sin nature, that we are born into, sees the world as centered around ourselves. It is our nature. It is bred within us from conception as sin is not taught, but natural. Thus scripture speaks of the natural man. The natural man is centered on self. The psychological challenge in a world where many feel beaten down, demeaned, and categorized by man-made caste systems of bias and prejudice is fighting the low self-worth that the enemy pours onto each

³ Schriener, Thomas R. *Hebrews: Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham, 2020), 95.

image-bearer of God. Yet, even in that, the brokenness of the world falsely believes the answer to the self-image problem is to inundate people with phrases and thought trials of positive thinking and coach-speak of “Do better,” “you are great,” “you got this,” “you have what it takes,” or other such phrases.

Not wrong in and of themselves but think about this. It is an ingenious tactic. Our enemy, through the sin-infected reality of this world has pushed a well-orchestrated self-despair upon God’s image-bearers through identity politics and perpetual lies about self, only to offer a well-marketed placebo of self-worth based on everything BUT the one who can bring healing, hope, and life.

Fear of death is the natural end for those whose lives are centered upon themselves. Fear of aging, of losing, of being left behind, of missing out, of being ignored, of being forgotten, and ultimately dying live in the hearts, minds, and emotions of God’s created image-bearers...and even within his redeemed children at times.

Thus, the reminder is clear – Christ is the one **for** whom and **by** whom all things exist. He is the center. He is the pinnacle. He is the point. That perspective changes everything.

MANY GLORIFIED

¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory,⁴

The Son, the Sovereign, the one who became less than the angels for just a season, the one for whom and by whom all things exist – the creator of all is bringing many sons to glory. Many have been and will be saved. Many. That’s exciting. That’s worth rejoicing over. Yet...it does say MANY and not ALL. Here’s the clear reminder for us all – not all will be saved.

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Heb 2:10). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

There's more to be said about this, but this reminder should be stated and also challenging, if not motivating.

Matthew 7

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ ⁵

Not all will be glorified. Many will be. I pray many more will be. But, so we don't gloss over this truth given to the Hebrew Christians – the glory that will be found will NOT be based on a human sense of fairness, or a universalist understanding of salvation, but in Christ alone – the one for whom and by whom everything exists.

PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERING

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 suffering⁶**

What does this mean that Christ is made perfect? Isn't he God? Isn't he perfect already. How can the perfect one become perfect if his nature is perfect already?

The teaching here does not mean he was imperfect and then through the cross became perfected. That's not what the word means in this instance. If it did, it would mean that Christ was imperfect morally and was made spotless through his actions. That is the placing of a works theology on

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 7:21–23). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁶ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Heb 2:10). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

the one who is perfection. The word “perfect” here refers to the Old Testament teaching of the consecration of priests indicating they were qualified for the job.⁷ As we will see even more in this letter referencing the role of the priests and especially the High Priest, it is vital that here the author gives insight into Christ’s qualifications as High Priest for his people. While Gentile Christians may not see the value, the Hebrews do and therefore, this perfection, this qualification is no small thing.

His qualification was made clear through his suffering. The suffering servant who is the saving sovereign did all for the glory of the Father so that many may be glorified through him.

SANCTIFIER

Thus, the Savior who qualifies sanctifies. He makes the impure pure, the unclean clean, the lost found, the unsaved saved, the irredeemable redeemed. He is the sanctifier – the change agent. The One. The Savior.

This statement of Jesus’ sanctification in verse 11 is remarkable.

Leviticus 20:8

⁸ Keep my statutes and do them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you.⁸

Leviticus 21:8

⁸ You shall sanctify him, for he offers the bread of your God. He shall be holy to you, for I, the LORD, who sanctify you, am holy.⁹

Leviticus 22:9

⁹ They shall therefore keep my charge, lest they bear sin for it and die thereby when they profane it: I am the LORD who sanctifies them.¹⁰

⁷ Schriener, 96.

⁸ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Le 20:8). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Le 21:8). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

¹⁰ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Le 22:9). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

This is a connection point between the Old and New. It is no small thing.

SAVIOR AND BROTHER

Jesus, according to this passage, not ashamed to call the glorified saints brothers and sisters! The masculine is used here collectively, but the point is clear. We, the redeemed are joint-heirs with Christ. He is more than our brother, but he is not less. That is not sacrilege. That is scripture. This commonality as brothers and sisters does not remove the deity from Christ nor does it mean all distinctives are erased. Christ does the sanctifying. The rest of humanity is sanctified.¹¹

The writer quotes an Old Testament song here.

Psalm 22:22

**²² I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: ¹²**

He then quotes two passages from Isaiah regarding trust and the gift of children in the family of God.

THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF FAMILY

There are some here today who sadly, just were not blessed with family that was loving and helpful, and safe, and caring. I am so sorry. There are others who had such good experiences in family life that others just cannot believe it. That is a blessing.

But more than comparing and contrasting our earthly family (with it's goodness and it's failures) we rather look to something revealed here that is much deeper, more authentic, cemented in the nature of God who is love, with a loving Father and a reminder of our worth.

¹¹ Schriener, 98.

¹² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ps 22:22). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

You see, many people fear death. They fear the loneliness that may come, or will come. They avoid funerals. They even avoid deep relationships just so that when death comes (even if they don't use that word) they can attempt to avoid the grief and pain that accompanies it.

This is not new. Look what is said here once more:

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. ¹³

Clichés often keep us from hearing truth. Despite the clichés heard over the years, Christ's love for us is truly demonstrated here. He does love you this much (spread arms.) He took on flesh, lived the perfect life to fullness, died so that the one who has the power of death could no longer win. Why? To deliver YOU and me. Verse 16 stands out – “for surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.” Not for angels or other beings, but for the offspring of Abraham (either blood relatives or grafted branches.) This means you. You and me so that MANY may be glorified through him. He did what he did for the Father's glory...and for your good – your salvation – your hope – your eternity. Don't miss this and if it is not clear today...don't leave until it is. It is no accident you are here. It is no accident you hear this.

The Lord who by nature is lovingly fatherly to all desires to be Father to you. Through the Son and his sacrifice. Amen.

¹³ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Heb 2:14–16). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.