

# Jesus is the Better Man

As a human being, Jesus lived the perfect life we could never live and by His merit, secured eternal life for all those who cling steadfastly to Him.

*Hebrews 2:1-13*

## INTRODUCTION

### CHAPTER 1:

- **Jesus has the better voice than the prophets** – You will find God’s entire message to mankind in the person of Jesus. All of history leading up to Jesus was a story of redemption being told and unfolded through the prophets as God spoke. Jesus is the pinnacle and culmination of God’s story. If you need to discover God, if you need to understand life, if you need answers to issues, if you desire to discover the thing beyond which there is nothing else to find, look no further than Jesus!
- **Jesus has the better name than the angels** – I mean angels are the pinnacle of God’s creation! Why should we listen to Jesus, this mere man, when we received the God’s communication from angels? Well, Jesus is above the angels! He is the creator and sustainer of the universe. God addresses His Son in unique terms that He never uses of the angels. In fact, the entire Old Testament testifies to the unique and divine nature of the Messiah, which indicates that Jesus, being the uncreated One, has the more excellent name and higher authority than any other.
- Today, the author continues of this track of displaying Jesus’ qualifications as being better by pointing out that Jesus, as a man, did what no other man could ever do in restoring us to God.

## BIBLE VERSE

Heb 2:1-13 NKJV – 1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? 5 For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. 6 But one testified in a certain place, saying: “What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? 7 You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. 10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying: “I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.” 13 And again: “I will put My trust in Him.” And again: “Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.”

## PRAY

## EXAMPLE

George Strait once put out a country song entitled, “A Bigger Man Than Me.” As with most country songs, it explains the woes of losing a woman and being lonely, but he describes the kind of man it takes to live with that kind of loneliness. The chorus says:

## QUOTE

*It takes a mighty man to live with lonesome*

*Some big men might live with misery*

*But there's one thing I know, for sure it's certain*

*It's for sure it's gonna take a lot bigger man than me*

George Strait,

## APPLICATION

Hey, regarding our salvation, none of us had what it takes! It would take a much bigger, better man than any of us to fulfill the righteous requirements of God.

- I was dead in my sins and trespasses, incapable of wiping my slate clean of the wickedness, rebellion, and disloyalty that I had against God.
- The dilemma was that because sin entered the world through a man, it had to be done away with by a man. The problem is that no man had the perfect nature to undo what Adam and Eve did, that would require divine perfection. ***The answer? The divine becoming a man.***
- ***jesus had to come in the flesh:***
  - ***to fulfill the promise of reigning on David's throne.***
  - ***to reveal the person of God to us in a way we could relate with.***
  - ***to bear in his flesh and shed his blood for our sins.***
  - ***to reverse the curse that the first man brought through his failure.***
- That has been the emphasis thus far... Jesus was a man, but no ordinary man. And He brought forth something so valuable that ignoring it has devastating consequences. He addresses those consequences in verses 1-4:

# 1

## The Better Man appeals to us

### CONTEXT

We ended our last study on verse 1 of chapter 2:

**1 Therefore (because Jesus speaks the better word than the prophets and has the better name than the angels) we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.**

Natural human progression and direction will automatically move away from God. That is the nature of our flesh. If the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are speaking to us the fullest picture of God's will and plan, we must not only listen but prioritize our lives around grabbing hold of Jesus. Later in Hebrews, of Jesus, the author states, ***“Heb 6:19 NKJV – This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil...”***

#### QUOTE

***The gospel of Jesus Christ is the anchor that keeps us from drifting in the world's current toward destruction!***

Josh, Quote

#### CONTEXT

The word drift comes from a Greek Nautical term which referred to a ship that had lost its anchor and had no one manning the helm. That ship would drift out to open sea or miss its intended destination. The word can also indicate a slow slipping away, like a memory that was once fresh and vivid in your mind, but because it wasn't kept at the forefront, has now slipped away. It has become a distant memory.

I don't want to be guilty of diminishing the weight of this warning. It seems clear that the risk is ever-present. If one does not take earnest heed, prioritize, work toward, and make effort to set Jesus clearly before them, the world, the flesh, and the devil will seek to make the cross of Christ a distant memory. The enemy would love nothing more than for a person to get so off course that they end up missing God's intended destination.

19th Century expositor John Brown set forth the following imagery, and it does cause one to shutter!

#### ILLUSTRATION

***[image] The Christian is embarked in his little vessel on the stream of life, and he is bound to the New Jerusalem. The winds of temptation, the tides of corrupt custom, and the powerful under-current of depraved inclination, all present such obstacles in the way of his reaching***

*the desired haven, that he is in great apparent hazard of being carried past the celestial city, and of making shipwreck on the shores of the land of Destruction.*

Brown, J. (1862). An Exposition of the Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Hebrews. (D. Smith, Ed.) (Vol. 1, p. 74). Edinburgh; London: William Oliphant and Co.; Hamilton, Adams & Co.

## TIE IN

The author ties this warning directly to verse 2 where he further expounds his logic.

## BIBLE VERSE

**2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?**

## CONTEXT

As we looked at last time we were together, the Law of God was delivered to Moses through messengers: the angels. Jewish theology taught that this validated that the message of the law was from God. The 1st-century Jewish historian Josephus wrote:

*“And for ourselves, we have learned from God the most excellent of our teachings, and the most holy part of our law by angels...”*

This method of delivery solidified the law’s truth and sanctity. There were severe penalties for those who disobeyed the precepts of the Old Covenant. Those who wandered from the covenant of their God in disobedience suffered judgment (we will see this more in chapter 3).

But here’s the point: If one could bank on the validity of the law of Moses because the angels delivered it, then how much more the gospel of the New Covenant which came to us, not by angelic messengers, but by the divine Son of God Himself?

How shall we escape if such a great salvation is neglected? Escape what? Escape the end that belongs to those who will face the judgment of God apart from faith!

## NEGLECTING SALVATION

To neglect here is not to outright reject, but the word means, **“to make light of.”**

- To take for granted or to devalue.
- When one begins to ignore the implications and commands of the gospel and when the voice of Jesus is laid aside and replaced by other voices, a slow drift begins until they find themselves even rejecting the Lord, having a hardened heart of faithlessness.

## QUOTE

*Neglect is always fueled by passivity.*

Josh, Quote

## APPLICATION

Passivity – to be without an active response.

- Taking the seemingly easier, more convenient course. To see something happening, but avoid it because dealing with it would be more trouble. The problem is that this is also called neglect.

Neglecting one’s marriage often stems from the unwillingness to put in the hard, uncomfortable effort to make it a priority. This leads to a marriage that lacks the intimacy and fullness it was designed to have.

Neglecting the oil in one’s car stems from procrastination: Not wanting to sit at the dealership, not wanting to spend the time or spend the money. This results in an engine that ends up with damage and a car that ends up with costly repairs.

The point: **NEGLECT ALWAYS HAS DETRIMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.**

*It’s the same with salvation. Neglecting Christ, neglecting obedience, neglecting faith... all of these could potentially lead to the rejection of saving faith altogether!*

- ***Neglect the words of Jesus, neglect relationship with Jesus, neglect obedience to Jesus, and you start a drift that if not corrected, could potentially lead you to an inescapable***

**waterfall!****APPLICATION**

So here arises a conflict of interpretation, one that takes place several times in the book of Hebrews... one that makes the reader uncomfortable in their seat.

To whom is the author talking?

- Is he warning Christians that they are susceptible and in potential danger of neglecting their salvation to the point of facing God's judgment? It's clear that he is writing to Christians. In chapter 3, twice he calls his audience brothers, an exclusively Christian term.
- Is he talking to a general "we," knowing that among true believers are others who believe that they are saved by association (my husband or wife is a Christian, sure I believe Jesus is real), but have never sincerely taken hold of the gospel, repented of sin, and been born again through true and fruitful faith?
- Or, Is he taking an evangelistic shift in his writing and talking about the unbelieving world seeing all the evidence of the truth of Christ and yet ignoring it unto judgment?

It is pointless for me to pretend that I have a definitive answer to an age-old debate. Personally, I think it's a potential, "yes" to all of the above!

- **NOTE: It's also important to note that there are four more occasions (Chapter 3, 6, 10, and 12), where the author issues a stern and firm warning, seemingly to a Christian audience about moving away from the hope of salvation that is in Christ alone.**
- He might also have in mind other Jews who are in the church but haven't fully given themselves to Christ and Christ alone.
- He might be thinking about the Romans.

**Who does it apply to today? I would simply answer this...**

- If it convicts you, it probably applies to you. If the Holy Spirit is moving in your heart, convicting you of sin or neglect, DON'T IGNORE IT! Stop debating about the minute details, and respond to the Lord's voice through repentance.
- If your slipping from Christ, renew your commitment to Him and His truth today! If you're trading Jesus for something this world has to offer, cast aside your idols and place your hope and faith entirely in Him.

## APPLICATION

***Whichever it is, one thing is clear:*** One must not ignore the gospel of Jesus Christ! His truth is not to be trampled on or thrown by the wayside. We must not abandon the full assurance of hope in the gospel for something more attractive. Our commitment to Christ must not be compromised for something seemingly more appealing.

## QUOTE

*A greater word brought by a greater Person having greater promises will bring a greater condemnation if it is neglected.*

David Guzik, Commentary on Hebrews

## CONTEXT

Next, the author demonstrates how God validated the veracity of the gospel:

***which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?***

- **It came first by the mouth of Jesus himself (The Lord):** Jesus brought the gospel of the Kingdom and established the New Covenant.
- **It was confirmed by firsthand witnesses, the disciples/apostles:** These are the ones who walked with Jesus, witnessed His miracles, heard His teachings, and ultimately bore first-hand witness to His resurrection.
- **It was then communicated to the world through them and was given validation by the Holy Spirit who was poured out by the Father:** We find the book of Acts detailing the amazing works that God did through the apostles to testify to the reality of the resurrected Jesus. The sick healed, the dead raised, prophetic words fulfilled, etc.

The language indicates that the author is building a **legal, courtroom case** as to why the message of the gospel of Jesus should be trusted and believed; basically that God's fingerprints and signature are all over it!



## 2

## The Better Man achieved for us

### TRANSITION

So what is this great salvation He speaks of?

Next, the author shows us how profound and amazing this salvation is. He speaks of the world to come and God's intentions toward mankind through Jesus.

He starts by quoting from Psalm 8. In the rest of these verses, we are going to see God's commitment to us, and it is staggering.

### BIBLE VERSE

**5 For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels**

*(Remember, he just finished building the case for why Jesus is better than the angels. Now he moves from angels to mankind).* **6 But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man**

**that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You take care of him? 7 You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands. 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.**

### CONTEXT

Here, David begins to prophesy. Picture it: You're under the untainted middle eastern sky. No light noise, no city noise, and you stare deeply into the expanse of the heavens. You begin to write a song, ***"God, of all the magnificent wonders which you have created, why on earth would you even consider me? Take care of me? I mean there are the angels, then there's me, lower in my strength and nature, yet, you have made me the apple of your eye. Not only that but you have crowned humanity with glory and honor!"***

**Then you get carried away:** "You have put ALL THINGS in subjection under his feet."

Wait a minute... that doesn't really reflect reality. Are all things in subjection to mankind? Last time I checked, the hurricane didn't consider the will of mankind. The volcano in Hawaii isn't considering the desire of all the people living in its devastating path.

## ILLUSTRATION

**Remember as a kid going to the pond and feeding the ducks until that angry goose shows up and starts chasing you around. What did you do? You ran for your life because you didn't want to get pecked by the angry goose. You didn't just turn around and say, "Hey goose, I am a descendant of Adam, crowned by God with glory and honor. Submit thyself to me!"**

Why, because sin ruined everything. Sin caused us to miss, at least in the life, the intended promise of God. We fell short and now we don't see all things under us as was intended.

- In the garden of Eden, everything was right... Adam had complete authority over all of God's creation. That's what God actually intended for humankind! But since sin entered the world, as the author points out, we don't see everything under our feet.
- So where is the hope of Psalm 8? If the prophecy is not true of sinful humans, who is it referring to?

## BIBLE VERSE

1 Corinthians 6:3 (NKJV)

Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

## CONTEXT

In chapter 1, the author spends time building the case and painting the picture of Jesus' divinity. In chapter 2, he emphasizes Jesus' humanity. Though He is the one above the angels, for our sake He became a little lower than the angels!

***The hope of Psalm 8's fulfillment is found in the person of Jesus and His humanity.***

## BIBLE VERSE

**9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.**

**10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.**

## **BUT WE SEE JESUS**

The Author draws the contrast between imperfect humanity and the perfect man, Jesus. Humanity has failed, but Jesus has overcome; humanity has fallen short, but Jesus has measured up. **But we see Jesus:**

- We see the fallenness of humankind, but we see Jesus
- We see death hanging over humanity, but we see Jesus
- We see decay, sorrow, and pain in the here and now, but we see Jesus
- We see confusion, unanswered questions, and despair, but we see Jesus
- We see a storm, and who does it listen to? Jesus.
- We see sickness, and who does it respond to? Jesus.
- We see death, and who does it bow to? Jesus!

## **APPLICATION**

The coming of Jesus was for more than just our salvation. He came so that through Him and to us, the ultimate plan of God for humankind could be reestablished.

- God created man to have the highest place of authority in His creation, but now, because of sin, we don't.
- God created man to have unhindered, uninterrupted fellowship with Him, but because of sin, we don't.
- God created man to live in a perfect, untainted world, but because of sin, the entire universe groans.
- So how can we get from where we are, as a race, to where God designed us to be?
- The only way is that God would become part of that human race, do what we could not do, and pave the way for us to enter into that promise!

## **BIBLE VERSE**

[Phi 2:5-8 NKJV] 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

## DEFINITION

The author uses and incredibly unique title for Jesus in Hebrews by calling him, “The captain of our salvation.”

You know that ship that has the tendency to drift off course? It needs a captain, and Jesus is the right guy for the job!

The word captain can also mean “pioneer”. Jesus is the trailblazer for all humanity.

## QUOTE

*In becoming part of the human race, Jesus paved the way for all humanity, if they would choose, to ultimately become what God originally intended them to be.*

Josh, Quote

## APPLICATION

How did He do it? He was made perfect through sufferings (verse 10)!

- Don't misunderstand. Jesus didn't have to earn perfection for himself.
- It's not as though Jesus was imperfect and needed to be sanctified. No, the perfect came and emptied Himself. He, through obedience and suffering, became complete in His role as Savior.
- ***Again, he didn't do this because He needed it for His own sake. It was for our sake that God followed through with this plan. Sin came through man causing suffering, therefore through a man's suffering, the curse had to be reversed. Until God came as a man, He***

*never suffered, but having suffered, Jesus became the perfect, complete savior, able to both satisfy the righteous requirements of God and represent humanity with empathy.*

## ILLUSTRATION

When I was in high school, I was a swimmer and not a bad one at that. I was pretty quick for my league and my school, but it was quickly evident that at a certain level I was out of my league.

- I could have never qualified for the US Olympics team. But imagine this scenario.
- I get an invitation for the US swimming Olympic trials. I show up and at my block is **Michael Phelps (winner of 28 Olympic swimming medals)**. He swims my race, wins, and then all the sudden I'm going to the Olympics! Then, I get to the Olympics and the same thing happens, except when the medal ceremony happens, he lets me stand on the platform and receive the Gold medal!

You see, Michale Phelps gained a standing, swam a qualifier, not because he needed to qualify, but because he was swimming on my behalf. How unfair! How completely ridiculous!

- But aren't you glad that when God wrote the rule book on obtaining eternal life, knowing that none of us would qualify, wrote it into His eternal rulebook that Jesus could qualify for us?
- He did so by perfect obedience and suffering, tasting death so that death would have no ultimate power over those who trust in Him.

## 3

## The Better Man associates WITH us

### BIBLE VERSE

**11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." 13 And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me."**

### CUSTOM BLOCK

In becoming a man, Jesus not only made himself one **of** us, he made himself one **with** us!

#### QUOTE

*Jesus does not merely place himself above us as our king, He places Himself alongside us as our brother.*

Josh, Quote

#### APPLICATION

This is one of the most mystifying statements in this book to me: “Therefore He is not ashamed to call them brethren.”

Say something with me... this could change your life: “**Jesus... is not ashamed... of me.**”

#### QUOTE

That we should not be ashamed to associate with Jesus is expected, but that Jesus is not ashamed to associate with us is astonishing!

Josh, Quote

#### APPLICATION

He quotes again from Psalm 22 and Isaiah 8 declaring that Jesus is not ashamed of us. As he declares the Father to us, He worships alongside us. He looks at us and shows us off as the children that God has given to Him. I love how Spurgeon puts it!

#### QUOTE

*Some things are valued by you as keepsakes given by one you love; and so are we dear to Christ because his Father gave us to him.*

## APPLICATION

I can think of some people I wouldn't want to be seen with in public, and I can think of some people that probably wouldn't want to be seen with me... but Jesus is not ashamed to be seen with anyone who sincerely calls Him Lord!

**Mat 10:32 NKJV – 32 “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.**

And that's where we end it today... Next week we see Jesus dealing with death and the devil, and that's exciting stuff!

## CONCLUSION

But we see Jesus...

Don't ever let your heart and your vision drift from that One. The one whose love and commitment to us is so strong that He became the better man for our sake.

Don't neglect and drift from the salvation that has been delivered to you by Him personally. It's heavy, convicting and thought-provoking. It will make you uncomfortable, but better yet, if you embrace it, it will make you secure in your position before God.

## BIBLE VERSE

**Jhn 1:12 NKJV – 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:**