

## Text— Hebrews 2:9-16

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

“God’s Son” was the theme of our Christmas sermon based on Hebrews 1:1-12. We especially learned of Jesus Christ’s eternal divinity, although we also noted His humanity as He took on a human nature in time as He was conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary.

Today’s Scripture selection focuses primarily on the necessity of Jesus Christ being true man in addition to true God. Therefore, as we continue celebrating the birth of our Savior, let us, as we ponder our Scripture selection, consider:

### “WHY GOD’S SON BECAME THE SON OF MAN”

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) It was vital for God’s Son to become the Son of Man that He might taste death for us
- 2) It was vital for God’s Son to become the Son of Man that He might conquer death and the devil for us

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Verse 9, ----- (Hebrews 2:9)

Angels are spirit-beings who cannot die with the shedding of blood, since they have no blood. Thus, it was necessary for God’s Son to be made man in order to accomplish His mission of mercy, our redemption, which is why our text opens by informing us: *we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

Take it to heart that God’s Son, Jesus Christ, was made a little lower than the angels, as touching His human nature, in order that He might suffer and die for us sinners, even experiencing the torments

of never-ending death in hell while nailed to the cross of Calvary. Yes, when Jesus was suffering on the tree of the cross, Matthew 27:46 reports, “about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Oh, to be forsaken by God is the torment of hell, the place, “Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched,” as Mark 9:44 relates.

Subsequent to Jesus’ supreme sacrifice of Himself for our sins, He was crowned with glory and honor, for Philippians 2:9-11 declares, “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Accordingly, we see that it was vital for God’s Son to become the Son of Man that He might taste death for us. If Jesus did not die for us and pay for our sins in full, suffering the punishments of hell itself for us, then we would have to suffer in hell forever when we depart this life, for John 3:16 & 36 plainly states, “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

Jesus Christ, God’s Son who is the Son of man, is the ONLY SAVIOR of sinners! And, the fact is that every naturally conceived human being is a sinner in need of the Savior, for Romans 3:23 informs us that “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” Romans 6:23 adds, “the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Let us therefore be ever grateful that God’s Son became the Son of Man in order that He might taste death for us and save us undeserving sinners.

Verses 10-12, ----- (Hebrews 2:10-12)

God the Father's undeserved love – His grace – toward us sinners is amazing, *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.*

Think about it. God's Son, Jesus Christ, is the Captain of our salvation, the chief leader and author of our salvation, since He has done ALL the work necessary to save us! Jesus kept God's Law perfectly for us and then He paid for our lack of keeping God's Law, for Galatians 4:4-7 relates, "when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." Hebrews 4:14-15 adds, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Hence, we who believe on Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord have His holiness imputed to us; and, Jesus is therefore not ashamed to call us Christians His brethren. Oh, Jesus is God's Son with a capital "S" since He is the only begotten Son of God; and yet, we Christians are God's adopted sons who can know Jesus as our elder Brother. We are truly blessed!

Interestingly, Matthew 12:49-50 reports that on one occasion Jesus "stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." And, Galatians 3:26-28 informs us, "ye are all the children of God

by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Thus, Jesus recognizes all true believers as His holy family. Yes, "we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all," declares Hebrews 10:10.

In Psalm 22:22 it was prophesied concerning Christ, "I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee." Thus, Jesus always spoke the full truth of God and He still does in the pages of Holy Writ that He by His Holy Spirit caused to be penned, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope," relates Romans 15:4.

Verse 13, ----- (Hebrews 2:13)

Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, God's Son, the Son of Man, for we read in Psalm 18:2 followed by Isaiah 8:18, "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion." Accordingly, our sermon text in Hebrews 2:13 remarks concerning Christ during His visible sojourn on earth, saying, *I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.*

Hence, it was vital for God's Son to become the Son of Man that He might completely fulfil His mission of mercy, our redemption; and, that He might see that we would be called to faith in Him that we might personally receive the forgiveness of sins and salvation which He earned for us, for Jesus says in John 10:27-29, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." Thus, fellow Christians, we believe in Jesus because He has called us to faith through His Word. Let us regularly thank and praise Jesus, God's Son who is the Son of Man who tasted death for us; because, without Jesus we would all be lost and damned.

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As we ponder our sermon text to its conclusion, let us see that it was vital for God's Son to become the Son of Man that He might conquer death and the devil for us.

Verses 14-16, ----- (Hebrews 2:14-16)

Fellow Christians, just a few minutes ago we referenced Galatians 3:26 which tells us we "are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Now, in the concluding verses of our sermon text we certainly see that it was vital for God's Son to become the Son of Man that He might conquer death and the devil for us, because we just read: *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.*

My friends, in order for God's Son to save us He HAD TO BECOME TRUE MAN that He might be OUR SINLESS SUBSTITUTE. God the Father's divine justice demanded perfect payment by a real flesh and blood Man for man's sins. It's amazing but true, for Hebrews 9:22-26 reports, "almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of

the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." And so, 1 Timothy 3:16 states, "without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." Yes, Jesus Christ is GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH so that as a real man He took our place under the Law and suffered and died in our place thereby destroying the devil's power of death, for "having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it," declares Colossians 2:15. Indeed, God's Son became the Son of Man that He might conquer death and the devil for us—and so He did when He was "made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead," as Romans 1:3-4 informs us.

God's Son, Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, has delivered us from the bondage of sin. It's as we learn in Romans 8:1-6, where we read, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Hence, we Christians have freedom from the slavery of sin because of the redemptive work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of

Man.

Jesus Christ is our Deliverer from doom! It's as Romans 5:6-19 informs us, saying, "when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." Therefore, take comfort in knowing that we Christians are now at one with God our heavenly Father because of the atoning work of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Oh beloved, as we've pondered our sermon text and related Scripture references we've surely seen why God's Son became the Son of Man. We've seen that it was vital for God's Son to become the Son of Man that He might taste death for us; and, we've seen that it was vital for God's Son to become the Son of Man that He might conquer death and the devil for us. Jesus is truly the only Savior from sin, death and hell since He is true God AND true man, but one Christ. It's as we learn from the words of 1 Peter 1:18-21, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God."

Let us therefore daily and sincerely repent of our sins. Let us keep our full trust and confidence in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord, never forgetting why God's Son became the Son of Man. Amen.

m.e.l.