

Born to Die

Sunday, November 29, 2020

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Hebrews 2:14-18 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. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

- I. The incarnation is a fundamental fact of God's redemption of man.
 - A. That the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us is fundamental fact that a person must believe to be a Christian.
 - B. It is the foundation of the salvation of sinners.
 - C. Anyone who rejects the fact that Jesus was a partaker of the same flesh and the same blood as us, to any degree, is of the spirit of antichrist.
 - D. Any attempt to circumvent the fact that Jesus overcame sin in a body just like ours, only by means the written Word of God and the Spirit of God, is that spirit of antichrist at work.
 - E. If Christ overcame temptation and sin with divine power that is not available to us then we are left in hopelessness about overcoming it ourselves.
 1. This is exactly what modern doctrines of devils have done to masses of people, who might otherwise believe and be saved from their sin.
 - F. "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren..."
 1. "Behoved" means that it had to be in order for Him to accomplish what He came to accomplish.
 2. He could not have been made like an angel or any other kind of being – He had to be made a man – just like us.
 3. He had to experience everything we experience here – especially that which is the result of sin, with one exception – guilt.
 4. But He did experience what it was like for others to think Him guilty and accuse Him of evil.
 5. He experienced the hatred and blame of others, even though He did no wrong.
- II. God became a man and inhabited a body of flesh and blood in order that He might die.
 - A. This was the reason for it all.
 - B. Angels do not die, so He could not send an angel.
 - C. The Son of God could not die, either.
 - D. So He had to be the Son of man – because men do indeed die.
 - E. He had to confine himself (his spirit) in a body of flesh and blood.

Philippians 2:7-8 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

- F. The only way out of that confinement was the death of that body.
- G. So Jesus came to die and He lived every day of his earthly life with death in front of him, just like we do.
- H. He lived like we live and He died like we die – it behoved him to do so.
 - 1. It had to be that way; to think or say otherwise is to deny the whole Gospel of God.

III. He was tempted in all points as we are.

Hebrews 4:15 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.

- A. Jesus was made perfect through suffering, He learned obedience by the things which He suffered, and He learned by experience what we feel and what our struggle is like in this sinful world in a body of flesh and blood.
- B. All this makes Him more than qualified to intercede for us.
- C. We cannot tell God that He does not understand.
- D. We cannot accuse God of not caring.
- E. We cannot believe that we have some sorrow or trial that is worse than God has experienced himself in this world in a body of flesh and blood.
- F. He is our companion in suffering, and in death.
 - 1. And just having a companion in suffering, that is a great comfort in itself.
- G. Other people may not understand and may never have had to deal with what we do, but we cannot think that about Jesus.
- H. But all this suffering is what living on earth in a body of flesh and blood is like.
 - 1. Life here is full of trouble – and then we face death.

IV. Jesus faced death, and one of the most horrible ways to die that man has invented.

Hebrews 2:14-15 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.

- A. If you understand his reason for coming, and you understand that He had experienced a lifetime in a body of flesh and blood, then you should be able to understand what was going on in Gethsemane that dark night.
- B. His death was imminent and He experienced what all men experience when death has its cold hands upon you.
- C. Many think that since He was the Son of God and that He knew He was going to be alive again in three days, it really could not have been a big deal to him.
 - 1. But Jesus truly put himself in our place and He felt and experienced what we feel when death is close at hand.
 - 2. If we are facing major surgery we are apprehensive about it as we think of what they are going to do to us, and at that point it is little comfort to us to know it is going to make life better for us afterward.
 - 3. There is this fear of death in the natural man that Jesus came to deliver us from.
 - 4. In order to deliver us from it He had to experience it himself, just like He experienced everything else, except sin itself.
- D. “That through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil...”
 - 1. Now death should hold no fear for the true child of God.

2. If it does then what Jesus did was not enough and He failed to accomplish what the Bible said He came to accomplish.
3. For those who have truly believed in Jesus have been delivered from the fear of death, because they have been delivered from the power of sin.
4. He destroyed the works of the devil:

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

5. If you have not been delivered from the power of sin you have not been delivered from the fear of death.
6. Jesus destroyed the works of the devil because He conquered death – He rose again.
7. He has abolished death and assured us that because He lives we will live also.
8. He IS the resurrection and the LIFE.
9. He proved to us and showed us by example that we are more than flesh and blood – we have eternal life, and that this earthly life is a temporary confinement in a tabernacle of flesh of blood.

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:4-6 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

- E. Just be careful that your lack of fear of death is based upon what Christ has done for you and not something the devil has deceived you with.
 1. There are lots of hardened sinners of the worst sort who claim to not fear death.
 2. There are lots of people who commit suicide who have been able to convince themselves to not fear death, but not because of what Christ has done for them.
 3. There is a way the devil can deceive in this matter until the moment of death arrives.
 4. Don't fall for his lies.
 5. Make sure you have put your trust in Christ alone for life, death, and eternity.