

Hebrews

Chapter Two

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter Two

SUMMARY: Verses 1-18

1. Salvation is not just a set of beliefs. Salvation is a message. It is a message declared by angels that judgment and retribution for disobedience is certain. Jesus declared the message to the world. Sin and disobedience had to be punished. Jesus took that punishment. The message was preached by those who saw Jesus first hand. God attested to the message by providing signs and wonders and miracles. The Holy Spirit attested the message in filling the life of every believer.
2. The message is: Jesus is head over everything. He was crowned with glory and honor because of the death for sin that He suffered. And by tasting death for everyone He made available to us the grace of God. That grace has given us the right to be children of God. And thus, Jesus is the author, perfecter, and founder of salvation.
3. The message is: Jesus tasted death for all so that all may partake in the glory of God.
4. Through Jesus' death for sin we all have access to the same Father. By Jesus' sacrifice of Himself we can now be called the brothers and sisters of Jesus. We are, through believing, part of God's family.
5. We were all under the power of the devil. We had no way out of this dilemma. So God became flesh and blood. Jesus came in the flesh to break the power of the devil over human beings. Only by God being able to die, taking on a flesh and blood body, could humans be set free from death. By this act of God's grace through Jesus we no longer need to fear death.
6. The only sacrifice that could break the power of sin and death over humanity was the sacrifice of God, Himself. This was the only sacrifice that could eliminate the true power of sin. This is why Jesus is superior to any other sacrificial or religious system. Mankind was bound to death, earned by disobedience, and God was the only One who could break the power and hold of death.
7. So God came in the flesh. He came to pay the price for sin and offer Himself to be punished for the sins of all mankind. By offering Himself as the sacrifice for the sins of every human He became our voice and advocate before the Father that we are free from the punishment of death.
8. Jesus is the only way to eternal life. He is the only way for the Father to accept us. Outside of His sacrifice for sins we all remain guilty. Jesus is the only sacrifice the Father will accept as the punishment for the guilt of humans. True, other sacrifices may hold great religious weight. But the one who holds the judgment is the Father and the Father states that only the Son's sacrifice is acceptable. No other religious system or ritual will afford any human freedom from guilt and punishment except the sacrifice of Jesus.

REFLECTION

1. What verse stuck out to you most?
2. Why is it so important to view salvation as a message from God to us rather than a system of religious beliefs?
3. How would you explain Jesus as being the only way for salvation? If salvation is a person, not a belief system, then salvation comes via a person.
4. Why was Jesus the only sacrifice that could break the power of death over mankind?
5. Why is Jesus the only sacrifice that God the Father will accept for the sins of every human being?

APPLICATION

1. Can you explain salvation as a message about the person Jesus?
2. How would you convince someone that Jesus is the only acceptable sacrifice for sins?
3. Is God fair and just to hold mankind guilty of punishment if they don't believe in Jesus? Explain
4. Why do so many think religious and good living will appease God?

