BUT … WE SEE JESUS

**DATE: 8/28/2013**

**TEXT: Hebrews 2:9; Philippians 2:6-11**

**INTRODUCTION**

***“But”***- is a grammatical word used in the middle of, or at the beginning of, a sentence to introduce something that is true in spite of it either being or seeming contrary to what has just been said

In our last study we saw that man Fell, Due to Sin …

**(James 1:14, 15 – *“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed”
“Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death”)***

… Fell from God’s Original Intent (end of **v. 8** says)

Review **vs. 6-8** (Taken from **Psalm 8:3-9**)

***“But now we see not yet all things put under him”***

Contrary to this statement …

Man will one day be restored to God’s Original Intent

**-** How is this change in condition accomplished?

- How is Fallen man made Right?

- How are sinners saved?

- How is man redeemed?

We will See …

What Man Lost; Jesus Restored

Sin Brought a Curse, but Jesus Lifted that Curse

The Bible says in **Romans 6:23** that ***“the wages of sin is death”***

That’s the penalty of sin

But thank God, **Romans 6:23** doesn’t stop there

For we read ***“but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”***

Jesus has paid the penalty of our sin!

Out text says –

***“But 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”***

I want to look at just this one verse tonight …

And see that Jesus is the answer to all man’s Problems!

I want us to see how He has paid the penalty of man’s sin

And set us free

… And Contrary to popular belief, all is Not lost

Let’s pray and think on this thought –

***“But … We See Jesus”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, I want you to ***“See Jesus”*** in -

**I. HIS “INCARNATION”**

**Hebrews 1:4** says that Jesus is ***“better than the angels”***

In our last study we saw that man was created …

**v. 7 - *“a little lower than the angels”***

Now, in **v.9** we see Jesus ***“made a little lower than the angels”***

The writer here is speaking of how Jesus became Man

He is speaking of His Incarnation –

*The act of God becoming man*

The first thing we see is …

**A. ‘How’ He Became Man**

In the statement ***“made a little lower than the angels”***

The words ***“made”***and ***“lower”*** are together

The words mean *to lessen in rank or influence, to decrease*

The writer is speaking of how, Jesus …

… lowered Himself to become a man

Prior to His Incarnation He was…

***“…crowned with glory and honour;”***

In becoming a Man, we see …

**1.** His Humanity

This is the first time in the book of Hebrews that the writer uses the name ***“Jesus”***

This is the name of His Humanity

It is the name that was given to Him at His birth

**Matthew 1:21 -**

***“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His Name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins”***

**2.** The Description of His Humanity

In **Philippians 2:6, 7**, Paul Describes for us the statement of Jesus being …

***…“made a little lower than the angels”***

He says - ***“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:” “But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men”***

**a.** Paul speaks of Jesus ***“being in the form of God”***

The word ***“form”*** has nothing to do with shape or size

It refers to His attributes (qualities)

The word speaks of *the outward expression of His inward nature*

Jesus, as we saw in **1:3**, is the ***“express image of His person”***

He is the visible expression of the invisible God

When we see Jesus, we see God!

The word ***“being”*** means *to exist*

Jesus has always existed as God and is the outward expression of the Godhead

**b.** Paul also states that Jesus ***“thought it not robbery to be equal with God”***

The word ***“robbery”*** comes from a verb meaning *to snatch,* or *to clutch*

Jesus was ***“equal with God,”*** but as Paul explained

He did not hold to that equality in His Humanity

*He did not consider His equality with God as something selfishly to be held on to*

The thought expressed, is the attitude that says –

*“I cannot keep My privileges for Myself, I must use them for others”*

**c.** Having this attitude, ***“He made Himself of no reputation”***

The word ***“made”*** means *to empty*

He did not cling to His rights as God

He laid aside His glory and robed Himself with flesh by becoming man

In Paul’s words, He ***“took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man”***

**B. ‘When’ He Became Man …**

… He became just like you and I

Subject to the same passions

**Heb. 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”***

**C. ‘Why’ He Became Man**

The writer of Hebrews explains

The purpose is found in the word ***“death***”

***“for the suffering of death”***

And that He ***“should taste death”***

Jesus became man with one great purpose in mind

And that was to give His life for men

He became man that He might die for men

**Luke’s** (**2:7**) accounts of the moment Jesus became man says -

***“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn”***

There seems to be something significant about the ***“swaddling clothes”*** for they are again referred to in **Luke 2:12** –

***“And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger”***

The word ***“swaddling”*** speaks of wrapping with straps

This was the method of wrapping a new born baby

It also speaks of the method of preparing a body for burial

We would call it a death shroud

- When Mary looked at His tiny hands and feet she saw the hands and feet that would one day be nailed to the cross

- When she held His little body, she held the body that was destined to suffer in her place

- When Mary looked on this Child wrapped in ***“swaddling clothes”*** she was looking on the One who would one day be buried in a stone cold tomb

Do you think at this point Mary understood the purpose of His coming to this earth?

He Became a Man to die for men

**HIS “INCARNATION”**

Secondly we see -

**II. HIS “SUBSTITUTION”**

The writer of Hebrews speaks of how as a man, Jesus -

***“by the grace of God should taste death for every man”***

The words ***“for every man”*** speak of how Jesus died as man for men

He died *as one of us*, for us

Again **Romans 6:23** declares that ***“the wages of sin is death”***

The Payment or Penalty of sin always has been death

**Genesis 2:16, 17 – *“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:”***

 ***“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”***

The connection between Disobedience and Death

It brings physical death either immediately or ultimately

But even worse is the final death, the ***“second death”,*** as noted in **Revelation 20:14** and **21:8**

Jesus paid the Penalty of sin by dying as our Substitute

A Substitute – *is somebody or something given in place of another, or that takes the place of another*

Paul declared in **Philippians 2:8** that Jesus –

***“Being found in fashion as man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”***

As our Substitute, He took our place

The word ***“taste”*** means more than to sample something,

Such as tasting a certain food

The word speaks of experiencing something *fully*

Jesus ***“tasted”*** death as man; fully experiencing all that death entailed

When we look at Calvary we see Him dying a cruel, agonizing death

His death was more than simply closing His eyes and quietly slipping out into eternity

He experienced death as full as it can be experienced

His ***“suffering of death”*** was of a degree that is beyond comprehension

**Song:** When I think of the death He tasted, I think the words of Charles Wesley: *“And can it be that I should gain An interest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain- For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be, That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me? Amazing love! How can it be, That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me? He left His Father's throne above So free, so infinite His grace-Emptied Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race: 'Tis mercy all, immense and free, For O my God, it found out me! 'Tis mercy all, immense and free, For O my God, it found out me!”*

We see a couple of things in His Substitution -

**A. It’s ‘Unlimited’**

The writer speaks of how He ***“should taste death for every man”***

**Ill.** The Calvinist perpetuates a False Doctrine called *Limited Atonement*  (Sometimes called Particular Redemption) Maybe you have heard the acronym TULIP

[T] Total depravity of man

[U] Unconditional election by God

[L] Limited atonement by Christ

[I] Irresistible grace of the Holy Spirit

[P] Perseverance of the saints

*Limited atonement* teaches that Christ’s redeeming work was intended to save the elect only and His substitution was in the place of certain specified sinners

That Christ’s death on the cross was not to redeem the whole world, but to redeem those given to Christ before the foundation of the world

But I read; Jesus tasted death ***“for every man”***

**John 3:15, 16 -** ***“That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life”***

***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”***

**Revelation 22:17 – *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely”***

God’s offer is to ***“whosoever”,*** without limitations

**‘Unlimited’ Substitution**

**B. An ‘Unmerited’ Substitution**

The writer also speaks of how ***“He, by the grace of God, should taste death for every man”***

Jesus becoming man was an act of *the Grace of God*

Grace speaks of *the Benefits and Blessings of God* …

… *that are bestowed upon us liberally without Cause or Merit*

**Titus 2:11** says - ***“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men”***

When we see Jesus becoming flesh, we see God’s Grace

Man does not Deserve, nor Merit, such Love

It is all a work of Grace

**Ill.** It was Donald G. Barnhouse who gave us this acronym of Grace:

[G] God’s

[R] Righteousness

[A] At

[C] Christ’s

[E] Expense

**Ill.** D. L. Moody loved to study the Bible topically. One day it dawned on him that he had never studied the subject of Grace. So, he set aside a day to study the subject. He found that he needed a second day, and then a third. By the evening of the third day he was so filled with the subject that he had to go out and tell someone about it. Stopping a complete stranger, he asked: “My friend, do you know anything about grace?” The man looked at him somewhat puzzled and said, “Grace, who?” Moody replied, “Why, the grace of God that brings salvation.”

Thinking about Grace, should stir your heart

**“INCARNATION”**

**“SUBSTITUTION”**

Thirdly, we see -

**III. HIS “EXALTATION”**

The writer tells us how Jesus was ***“crowned with glory and honor”***

In His incarnation He set aside His Heavenly Attributes and took upon Himself the Likeness of Man

He would Experience Death for Every Man

However, having Given Himself as Man’s Substitute …

He will again be ***“crowned with glory and honor”***

The Bible says in **Philippians 2:9-11 –**

***“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”***

Because of what He did for man …

God has Crowned Him with Glory and Honor

He has exalted Him

In His exaltation we see -

**A. The ‘Risen’ Christ**

He may have suffered death, but He did not stay dead

He rose again on the third day

He is not only the Redeeming Christ,

But He is also the Risen Christ

**Ill.** During the French Revolution, someone said to Talleyrand, bishop of Autun, *“The Christian religion—what is it? It would be easy to start a religion like that.”* Talleyrand replied, *“Yes, One would only have to get crucified and rise again the third day.”*

**The ‘Risen’ Christ**

**B. The ‘Reigning’ Christ**

Jesus, having accomplished His earthly mission,

Ascended back to heaven where at this moment …

… He is seated at the right hand of God

**Hebrews 1:3 – *“… when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”***

His Throne and His Rule are Endless and Ageless

**Hebrews 1:8 – *“But unto the Son He saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom”* (Ps. 45)**

He is worshipped by the angels of heaven

**Hebrews 1:6 – *“And again, when He bringeth in the Firstbegotten into the world, He saith, And let all the angels of God worship Him”***

And one day every knee will bow and confess that He is Lord to the Glory of God the Father

**CONCLUSION**

Think about it!

Man had lost everything that God gave him in the garden

He lost everything from his Fellowship with God to his Dominion over the Earth

When all is lost, and the days are dark, even when there appears to be no hope, the writer of Hebrews says,

***“But we see Jesus”***

Here we are under the curse of sin and …

…subject to eternal death and damnation

**“BUT”**, God steps in

God often uses this little word ***“but”*** to turn our attention from the Despair of Sinfulness to the Delight of the Saviour

He turns our minds from the Awfulness of Hell to the Availability of Hope

**Ephesians 2:4, 5 – “*But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, …”***

**John 1:12 –*****“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name”***

**Romans 5:8 –*****“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”***

Right in the midst of our Defeat and Disgrace we are offered Hope

***“But God, who is rich in mercy... But as many as receive Him... But we see Jesus...”***

Right in the midst of our sinful misery, God steps on the scene and says **“BUT...”**

That word ***“but”*** is a flame of light and hope in a world of despair

***“But We See Jesus”***

**HIS “INCARNATION”**

**HIS “SUBSTITUTION”**

**HIS “EXALTATION”**