JESUS: THE PIONEER

**DATE: 9/4/2013 Wed.**

**TEXT: Hebrews 2:10-13**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Ill.** How many remember Vest Parker playing Daniel Boon? Wa-tau-ga County, is in North Carolina. The county was formed in 1849 and received its name from the Watauga River that flows through it. The name “Watauga” is an Indian word meaning “beautiful water.” The county seat is the town of Boone, named after the pioneer Daniel Boone, he had a cabin there where he would stay while on hunting expeditions between the Kentucky wilderness and his home in Yadkin County, N.C. (Daniel Boon I believe was a saved man)

When I think of pioneers, Daniel Boone is one of the first that comes to mind

In this study I want to look at another Pioneer

The Greatest Pioneer of them all

The writer of Hebrews speaks of the Lord Jesus as a Pioneer (You ask; How?)

In **Hebrews 2:10** he calls the Lord Jesus the ***“Captain”*** of the believers salvation

The title ***“captain”*** is the Greek word *archegos*

The word is found 4 times in the New Testament

In **Acts 3:15** and **5:31** where it’s translated ***“prince”***

In **Hebrews 12:2** it’s translated ***“author”***

The word is descriptive of a Pioneer

An *archegos* was *someone who began something in order that others might enter in*

He was someone who began …

- A family that someday others may be born into it

- A city in order that others may dwell in it

- A university that others may learn the Truth from it

- Someone who blazes a trail for others to follow

**Ill.** William Barclay writes: *“Suppose a ship is on the rocks and the only way of rescue is for someone to swim ashore with a line in order that, once the line is secured, others might follow. The one who is first to swim ashore will be the archegos of the safety of the others”*

This is what the writer to the Hebrews means when he says that Jesus is the ***“Captain”*** of our salvation

Jesus has blazed the trail to God for us to follow

- By Him we are bought into God’s family

- By Him we have become citizens of heaven

- By Him we have been brought into the Truth

All that we have in our great salvation, was provided by the Lord Jesus

He, and He alone, blazed the trail that leads to the Father and salvation

As we look closer at our text, I want us to see …

***“Jesus the Pioneer”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE PIONEER OF “OUR SALVATION”**

In **Hebrews 2:10** we read –

***“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”***

The word ***“salvation”*** means *to rescue, to deliver and be brought to a place of safety*

To say that we are saved is to say that God has Rescued, or Delivered us from the Penalty of sin and from the Wrath to come

**Romans 6:23a – *“For the wages of sin is death”***

**I Thessalonians 1:10 –** ***“And to wait for His Son from heaven, Whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come”***

In Jesus we are *Rescued*!

*Delivered* from the Consequences of our Sin

One of which is an Eternal Hell

In Jesus we are safe!

**v. 10** speaks of Jesus becoming the Captain …

***“Of our Salvation”***

He is speaking of His Redemptive work that provided Salvation for all men

First, we see -

**A. How ‘Fitting’ His Redemptive Work Is**

Look at the words ***“For it became Him,”***

How many have heard the phrase *“That’s becoming on you”*

It means attractively suitable for somebody's appearance

Literally mean *it was fitting*

Everything God did in giving us His Son …

Was in agreement with His Nature and Character

It was Fitting that the God ***“for whom are all things, and by whom are all things”*** …

Should give His Son to be the Captain of our salvation and bring ***“many sons unto glory”***

**1.** God is Merciful

Moses was made aware of this great truth in **Exodus 34:6 –**

***“And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth”***

God is merciful; therefore it is only fitting that He would show mercy by giving His Son

**2.** He is Love

**I John 4:8** declares - ***“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love”***

God is a God of love; therefore it is only fitting that He demonstrated His Love by giving His Son

**3.** God is Gracious

We read in **II Chronicles 30:9** - ***“for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful”***

Since God is Gracious, full of *grace and mercy*, it is only fitting that He gave His Son

**4.** God is all Wise

It was consistent with God's Wisdom

The cross was a masterpiece of wisdom

God solved the problem which no human or angelic mind could have solved

**5.** God is Holy

What He did was also consistent with His holiness,

For God showed on the cross, His hatred for sin

**6.** God is All Powerful

It was consistent with His Power,

Being the greatest display of power ever manifested

Christ endured for a few hours what will take an eternity for unrepentant sinners to endure

When we look at the cross, we see a work that was completely fitting and reflective of the person, nature, and character of God …

Who gave His life thereby ***“bringing many sons to glory”***

Furthermore, we see -

**B. How ‘Fully’ His Redemptive Work Is**

The writer speaks of how Jesus, as ***“the Captain of our salvation”***, was made ***“perfect through sufferings”***

This raises a question?

How can the Perfect One be made more perfect?

The word ***“perfect”*** has nothing to do with the addition of anything or the purging of anything from one’s character

The Lord Jesus has always been the embodiment of moral perfection in that He was absolutely sinless

**II Corinthians 5:21 – *“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”***

The word ***“perfect”*** has a very special meaning

It is used, for instance, of …

- An animal which is unblemished and fit to be offered as a sacrifice

- A scholar who is no longer at the elementary stage but mature

- A human being or an animal who is full grown

The basic meaning in the NT is always that the thing or person being described can fully carry out the purpose for which it was intended

Therefore, the word does not mean to make perfect

(As we think of *perfection*)

But being *perfectly capable* for the task for which purposed

When the writer of Hebrews spoke of Jesus being made

***“perfect through sufferings”***

He was declaring that through His Incarnation …

Jesus was fully Capable of the task of being the Pioneer of our salvation

Jesus could not have become an adequate Saviour and High Priest had He not become Man and suffered and died

For as God He could never suffer and die

**Ill.** In 1959, John Howard Griffin changed himself from a white man into a black man. Feeling that he could never understand the plight of blacks unless he became one, he darkened his skin with oral medication, sun lamp treatment, and stains. Then he began traveling through the South. The results were unbelievable. He received treatment that was almost inhuman. There were vehicles which he was not allowed to ride. There were restaurants in which he couldn’t eat. There were hotels where he couldn’t sleep. There were restrooms he couldn’t use. He was persecuted, slighted, and cheated. He told of his experiences in his book entitled *Black Like Me.*

The Lord Jesus became one of us that He might die for us

In His sufferings we see Him dying as man for men

By giving Himself as a man for men,

He was fully qualified to be the Captain of …

**OUR SALVATION**

Secondly, we see Jesus as -

**II. THE PIONEER OF “OUR SANCTIFICATION”**

We read in **v.** **11 -** ***“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”***

Sanctification is the process whereby we are made holy

Peter states in **I Peter 1:16** - ***“Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy”***

The Lord Jesus is not only **the Pioneer of our Salvation**;

He is also **the Pioneer of our Sanctification**

He is the One who makes us holy

The Bible describes a two-fold work of Sanctification

There is a Positional and Practical work of Sanctification

Practical Sanctification is the Day to Day work of the Holy Spirit conforming us into the image of Jesus

**Romans 8:29 – *“For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren”***

But the writer of Hebrews is describing the Positional work of Sanctification

Let me explain …

First, we see -

**A. The ‘Sanctifier’**

The writer speaks of ***“He that sanctifieth”***

In His work on Calvary, the Lord Jesus not only delivered us,

But He also made us Positionally holy before God

When I talk about position I’m talking about Our Standing before God

When God looks on the redeemed sinner He sees him holy through the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

We have been Declared Righteous (Justification) and thereby, made holy in the Lord Jesus

This great work of Sanctification is wonderfully describes in **Ephesians 1:4-6**

In **Ephesians 1:4** we read - ***“According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love”***

How can sinners be made holy and be without blame before God?

We read in **Ephesians 1:6** - ***“To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved”***

The Bible says in **Romans 3:10** that there is ***“none righteous”***

However we read in **Romans 5:19** that ***“by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous”***

In Christ, sinners are made Righteous

We are made holy in the Lord Jesus

We are *declared* Righteous

Jesus is - ***“He that sanctifieth”***

Secondly, we see -

**B. The ‘Sanctified’**

The writer also speaks of ***“they who are sanctified”***

The writer is speaking of those who have been Redeemed and how they have Positionally been Sanctified

**Jude 1:1** speaks to ***“them that are sanctified”***

In **Hebrews 10:14** the writer speaks of how –

***“For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified”***

Paul stated in **I Corinthians 6:11** –

***“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, ye are sanctified”***

The work of Sanctification Positionally destroys the idea that someone can be saved by their works

We do not work to be saved

We work because we are saved

It’s true, that by the way we live, we reveal the work of sanctification that is going on in our lives

That is Practical Sanctification

But only Christ can sanctify us Positionally

A Redeemed sinner is the Sanctified

Christ is the Sanctifier!

Jesus is …

**THE PIONEER OF OUR SALVATION**

**THE PIONEER OF OUR SANCTIFICATION**

Lastly, notice that Jesus is -

**III. THE PIONEER OF “OUR SONSHIP”**

**v. 11** - Because we are ***“they who are sanctified,”***

We ***“are all of one”***

The words ***“all of one”*** mean *out of* or *from one*

It speaks of being of the same family

Because the Lord Jesus (Our Pioneer / Captain) has delivered us and made us holy, we are all of one family

Jesus is the Pioneer of our Sonship

He has made us Sons of God and has brought us into the family of God

**I John 3:2 – *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that,***

***…when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is”***

As the Pioneer of our Sonship, He has a unique relationship to us

First, notice -

**A. What He ‘Calls’ Us**

Because we are in the Family …

**v. 11** says ***“He is not ashamed to call them brethren”***

Jesus never called anyone brother before the cross

He called them disciples, sheep, friends, etc,

But He never called them ***“brethren”***

However, as soon as He was risen from the dead,

He said to Mary in **John 20:17 - *“go to my brethren”***

In **vs. 12 & 13** we read that He actually rejoices in being able to call us His brethren

We read - ***“Saying, I will declare Thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee” “And again, I will put my trust in Him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me”***

Throughout His earthly life Jesus put His trust in the Father

He rejoices that those whom God has given Him would do the same

What an amazing thought that Jesus rejoices that we are His brethren

We also see -

**B. How He ‘Claims’ Us**

The writer tells us that - ***“He is not ashamed”*** to call us His brethren

At times we’ve been ashamed of Him, but He is never ashamed of us

I close with this illustration

**Ill.** Dr. S.D. Gordon tells the story of an elderly Christian woman he knew. She had once known much of the Bible by heart. Over time things slipped. In the end only one precious verse stayed with her - *“I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day”* By and by even that started to slip away. She would quietly repeat, *“That which I have committed unto Him.”* At last, as she hovered between life and death, her loved one noticed her lips moving. They bent down to see if she needed anything. She was repeating over and over to herself one word of the text, “Him, Him, Him.”

She lost the whole Bible, but one word

But in that one word she had the whole Bible

Him!

He is the Pioneer of our Salvation, Sanctification, and Sonship!

It is all in Him!

***“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”***