

We See Jesus

by Pastor Matt Black

Saturday, December 10, 2005

TBC Christmas Banquet

Hebrews 2:9

Introduction: Our text tonight is found in the book of Hebrews 2, verse 9. It reads *"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."* The title of our devotional is found right there in the text: *"We see Jesus."* Aren't you glad that you have seen Jesus? Paul says in Titus 1:15, *"Unto the pure all things are pure."* And in the same way, the Christian sees Jesus in every action he does. Every thought and deed is dedicated to the Lord. *"We see Jesus."* This kind of sight is not physical. Oh, sure Paul had a vision of the Lord on the Damascus Road. He could say that he saw Jesus, and he confirms this in various places. But the sight he speaks of here, is that of a strong and fervent, childlike faith.

Do we have faith in Jesus? Do we see Him with the eyes of faith as He is found in the objective, forever settled Word of God? Faith is not some mystical, whimsical, nostalgic, subjective feeling that we get around Christmas time or when we celebrate Christ's resurrection at Easter. Faith is not "good cheer" or superstition. Many in the world are willing to call Christ Lord on two days in the year, just in case He really *is* the one true Lord from Heaven! But who is willing to let Christ rule over him *every* day? Only a true, born from above, blood bought, regenerated Christian will submit to Jesus in faith as a mark of his life. Only a Christian can truly see Jesus and demonstrate true faith. And so the lost person comes to Christmas and feels that twinge of nostalgia and is persuaded that he might have a bit of faith, but it is really just a deceptive feeling and nothing more. For if we do not see Jesus through the entirety of our life and being, we have no more than a demonic kind of faith. "The devils also believe and tremble" (James 2:19). If we see Jesus only during times of crisis, or only on holidays, then we have a false faith that uses God and makes the creature rule over the Creator. In essence we will let God rule over us at our convenience! That is no faith at all.

Spurgeon had this to say about Christmas "How absurd to think we could [celebrate Christmas] in the spirit of the world, with a Jack Frost clown, a deceptive worldly Santa Claus, and a mixed program of sacred truth with fun, deception and fiction. If it be possible to honor Christ in the giving of gifts, I cannot see how while the gift, giver, and recipient are all in the spirit of the world. The Catholics and high Church Episcopalians may have their Christmas one day in 365, but we have a Christ gift the entire year." (Dec. 24, 1871)

We agree with Spurgeon, and though we will gather and celebrate Christ on the day we call Christmas, we will also celebrate Him every other day of the year! "We see Jesus" not just on Christmas, but every day, and every moment of our lives. And as we celebrate Christmas, let us not do so as the world does it. How do you celebrate Christmas? Is the highlight the gift giving and the coveting and the materialism? I hope not, though for some, probably even here tonight, this is the case. But how should we celebrate Christmas? That is explained in three words in our text "We see Jesus."

First we must see that:

1. We see Jesus and the REALITY of His Incarnation.

God the Son, the second Person of the Trinity was "*made a little lower than the angels*" for a time. He was not created, but descended from His throne in Heaven and put on a robe of human flesh. The fact that Jesus of Nazareth was born in Galilee some two thousand years ago is a part of the record of even secular history. This is not some fairy tale, but historically verifiable. Other false religions such as Mormonism may try to pass off fiction for fact, but Jesus Christ of Nazareth and all those surrounding him were real people. You may in unbelief reject the claims that Jesus made; you may reject his miracles, and you may reject Him as Saviour and Lord, but you cannot deny his birth. The reality of Jesus' incarnation is undeniable.

John 1:1, 3, 14 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...3 all things were made by him was not anything made that was made...14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

The One Who made everything was born... He was born to die!

1 Timothy 3:16 And 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.

2. We see Jesus and the REASONS for His Incarnation.

A. *JESUS WAS BORN TO DIE.*

We must see Jesus in His death-- and live out the redemption that is found only in HIM every day of our lives.

Jesus was born to die!

Our text says here in verse 9 that "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" (Hebrews 2:9).

Jesus was *born to die!* The King of kings—the Sovereign God of Heaven became the Crucified One. This is the message of Christmas, and it ought to be the message we live out each day.

Why did Jesus die? Look at Isaiah 53.

Isaiah 53:4-11 *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 8 ...for the transgression of my people was he stricken... 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the LORD to*

bruise him...11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

He was born to carry our sins! He was born to bear our iniquities. He was born to pay a price we could not pay, and to pay a debt He did not owe. He was born to die, to demonstrate His mercy and love toward us, in that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Jesus was not only born to die, but...

B. JESUS WAS BORN TO HAVE DOMINION.

Our text says again in verse 9 that "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" (Hebrews 2:9).

- He is crowned by His people. The word crown speaks of royalty and dominion. Only one who has dominion is crowned. And Jesus is crowned. He is crowned by His people. He is crowned by those whom the Father has given to Him. Remember the prayer of Jesus in John 17?

John 17:5 *And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*

John 17:24 *Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.*

John 8:58 *Before Abraham was, I am.*

Does Jesus have dominion over you? Over your every day life? Is he crowned with glory and honour in your home? Oh, it is easy to crown Him King in the presence of people who claim to love Him, but do you crown Him King among Christ's enemies?

- He is crowned by His enemies. Look at the previous verse, verse number 8 in our text: "Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing *that is* not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him" (Hebrews 2:8).

And then in 1 Corinthians 15:24-25, speaking of the Second Coming of Christ, says, "Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet."

Mark 12:36 For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

And what does Paul say in Philippians 2?

Philippians 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus

every knee should bow...11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

There are only two ways that God puts enemies under his feet: through salvation and mercy in this life, or through judgment in the life to come!

Every living being on the earth will for all eternity confess the Lordship and dominion of Jesus Christ!

How about you? Are you living out the Lordship of Christ in your life? Are you giving glory to God with every action? Are you passionate and obsessed with His glory? Every day we must make a conscience decision to submit each minute of our lives to the dominion of the Lord!

- He is crowned by all creation.

Isaiah 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

You see there is coming a day when Jesus shall rule over all creation.

Look at Isaiah 11:6-9

Isaiah 11:6-9 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them... 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den... for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

It is this Jesus who will rule over all! He will bring peace where there is no peace and He will rule over every one. Jesus was born to have dominion!!

Isaac Watts wrote in the year 1719:

*Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.*

Finally, Jesus was not only born to die, and born to have dominion, but...

C. JESUS WAS BORN TO DELIVER.

Finally we read in our text, "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" (Hebrews 2:9).

He was born to deliver us from death. See Hebrews 2: 15-17 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage... to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

- Christ's deliverance is UNMERITED. It is "by the grace of God" that Christ tasted death. Our salvation is all of grace.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Isaiah says our works are as filthy rags!

We believe at Ephesians 2:8-9 teach that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, Christ alone, to the God's glory alone! This is all taught by the Scriptures alone—for faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).

- Christ's deliverance is UNIVERSAL. He tasted "death for every man." Now do not misunderstand me. I am not an inclusivist. Every man, must be taken in its context. This context is to the Hebrews. What Paul was saying here is that Jesus did not die just for the Jews. That is the mystery of the Gospel. That the Messiah should come not just for the Jews, but for the entire world—For every man!!

Again, do not misunderstand me—when I say universal, I do NOT mean inclusive. There are some who teach that Christ's death merits favor for literally every man, so that every sincere Muslim and Buddhist, and sincere Jews, and Mormons, and religious people of every stripe will have salvation through the blood of Christ, For it follows, they falsely teach, that if Christ died for all, then are all saved. That is the apostasy called "Inclusivism." It is propounded by people that you should beware of, like Joel Olsteen and Billy Graham.

Listen to what the Lord Jesus says to this:

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

You see, Jesus claim was EXCLUSIVE. There is only ONE way, there is only one truth, and there is only one Saviour who can grant eternal life. No one comes to the Father without Jesus. This is why He was born. This is why he died. And this is what we must preach to every creature until the Lord comes again!

And so, Jesus tasted death for every man, rich or poor, Jew or Gentile. We are to preach the Gospel to "every creature." That is the message of Christmas, and it is the message of every day of our lives.

Amen!