

Jesus Is Better
God Shatters Fear of Death By His Son
Hebrews 2:9-15

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Dec 9, 2018

I. King Jesus was born to suffer & die.

Heb 2:9,10 - ⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, **so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.** ¹⁰ **For it was fitting** that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Christmas celebrates the birth of a Baby whose God-ordained purpose was to die. His death was not an accident. Even though He died unjustly at the hands of malicious men, His death was not a tragedy. This was “fitting.” This was His life’s purpose. Jesus was born to die.

II. King Jesus connects us to the Source of our sanctification - God Himself!

Heb 2:11 - ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers...

Christmas celebrates the bridge Christ made between us and God, connecting us to the same Source He has for life and power. We share the same heavenly Father as Jesus, and are part of the family of God.

III. King Jesus shatters the bondage to sin & fear of death!

Heb 2:14,15 - ¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

Christmas celebrates the victory Jesus had over Satan. That baby in the manger is King Jesus Who shatters our fears and sets us free from slavery to sin & death!

Questions for Community Group and/or Personal Application:

- (1) What do you wonder about death?
- (2) Even if you're a Christian and you have the promise of heaven, do you ever struggle with any fear of death simply because of all the unknowns?
- (3) Pastor Peter said the Jews struggled with the idea that God would become a man and die. When you read in Heb. 2:10 that it was "fitting" that Christ should suffer and die, how does that make you feel?
- (4) Heb. 2:11 reminds us that we (the sanctified) have the same source as Jesus (He who sanctifies). Consider that for a moment, and think of 1-2 areas in your life in which you never realized or perhaps forgotten you have the same "helpline," the same access to God the Father for help that Jesus did.
- (5) Heb. 2:15 talks about Christ delivering us from "fear of death" and "lifelong slavery." If not for Christ, what fears would you perhaps wrestle with on an ongoing basis? How would you be enslaved if not for the emancipating work of Jesus?