

“Jesus Christ, Our Hero”
Hebrews 2:5-18

- I. He identifies with us completely in our humanity – 2:5-15
 - A. He assumed our nature – 2:9a,14a; 17
 - Ps. 8 – “little while lower than the angels”
 - John 1:1-3,14; Luke 24:39; Phil 2:5-8; Col. 2:9
 - B. He lived our life – 2:10-11
 - Jesus experienced temptation – 2:17-18
 - Temptation from Satan himself (Mt. 4:10)
 - Lust of flesh – bread
 - Boastful pride of life – prestige; show who you are
 - Lust of eyes – possessions; kingdoms
 - Jesus experienced suffering – 2:17
 - C. He died our death – 2:14b-15
 - Didn’t die for Himself – 2 Cor. 5:21
 - The full weight of God's wrath against sin was leveled against us but Christ intervened.
 1. Result – Satan conquered; 1 John 3:8; Luke 11:21
 2. Result – victory over death; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 15:26; Rev. 20:14
 3. Result – freedom from fear; 1 Cor. 15

The fundamental thing behind all motivation and all activity is the constant struggle against annihilation and against death. Death is absolutely stupefying in its terror, and it renders anyone's accomplishments meaningless.
—Woody Allen
 - Death is certain. Beyond death is unknown, but we have one who has been there.
 - D. He restores our humanity
 - If you want to know who you are, read Psalm 8.

- II. He rescues us completely as our great High Priest – 2:16-18
 - A. He only rescues man – 2:16
Heb. 8:9; Mt. 14:31
 - B. He alone could rescue man – 2:17-18
 - 1. Fully God – adequate propitiation
Worthy to stand before God and plead our case
 - 2. Fully Man – complete empathy
He is appropriate sacrifice – bulls and goats can't take away sin
 - Have you accepted His death for you?
 - Have you accepted His destiny for you?
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Study Questions: Hebrews 2:5-18

1. Compare David's thoughts as he proclaims in Psalm 8:4 "*what is man?*" with Job's (Job 7:17-21). Why does the author use David's thoughts rather than Job's to express his point?
2. What effect does Psalm 8 (quoted in Hebrews 2:5-8) have on your self-image?
3. What does it mean that all things have been subjected to man?
4. Does it excite you to imagine ruling with Christ in His coming kingdom? Why or why not? What do you imagine such a privileged life will be like?
5. Name some ways in which man is made a little lower than the angels?
6. Name some ways in which man is made a little above the angels?
7. What does it mean that Jesus was made "lower" than the angels?
8. Describe the nature of Jesus Christ (use Hebrews 1-2 to support your description). In what ways is He like us and in what ways is He different?
9. How do you observe the deity and the humanity of Jesus Christ being attacked today? Is one attacked more than the other? If so, why?
10. During Jesus' earthly ministry, how did He exercise dominion over creation?
11. Why was it "fitting" for Jesus Christ, the "perfect" Son of God, to be "perfected" through suffering?

12. How was Jesus “perfected” through suffering (2:10)?
13. What specific statements in 2:9-18 and what events from Jesus’ life demonstrate that He can in fact empathize fully with the human experience?
14. Why is Jesus Christ **not** inferior to the angels because of His humanity? The author of Hebrews gives several reasons in verses 5 through 18; list as many as you can find.
15. What did Jesus Christ conquer that man has not?
16. In verse 11, who is “the one who makes men holy” and who are “those who are made holy”?
17. Why does Jesus call us “brothers” in this context rather than by some other designation?
18. In what sense are we all “from one Father” (literally, “from one”)?
19. How do the Old Testament quotations in verses 12 and 13 support the statement made in verse 11b?
20. What are your greatest fears? How do they affect you? How can Christ help you to overcome those fears?
21. Have you ever identified with someone else in his or her suffering? How were you able to do this? Was it difficult or easy? Why?
22. What can you and your home church group meditate on during your quiet time this week in light of Jesus Christ’s work and ministry through His humanity?