

Week Three: Jesus Suffered for Our Salvation

Introduction

Jesus suffered and tasted death on our behalf. We put our trust in him to save us, sanctify us, and bring us to glory.

Digging Deeper

In chapter two of Hebrews, the purpose of the atonement is accomplished through the incarnation (v.10). We learn that Jesus will “bring many sons to glory.” His work will be completed (perfected) through suffering.

It is clearly understood by Jesus that the salvation (v. 10) and sanctification (v. 11) of people will be accomplished through suffering. “Many sons” is in sharp contrast to the one provider. One man, resolved to complete the mission of God, will bring many under that mission.

In this process of redemption, Christ will be the author (Gk. *archegos*) of the salvation. This word is found four times in the New Testament, and each time it refers to Jesus. The description brings to mind “source” or “origin.” We are to understand that Jesus designs and provides our salvation. In other ancient literature *archegos* is used of the first person in a series, especially a series that is meant to be continued or repeated. This idea is similar to Jesus being the “firstborn among many brothers” (Romans 8.29).

We are given a glimpse into the perfect union of God and man in this explanation of our deliverance. Jesus defines the method of atonement in his divinity and makes it come to reality in his humanity.

Bible Study Questions

Read Hebrews 2:5-10

(v. 5-8): We know from Scripture that in the “world to come,” we will reign with Christ, co-heirs, adopted as sons and daughters. We know that God’s kingdom will come, and His will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. We know the old heavens and the old earth shall pass away, and that the new heavens and new earth will be established at the final coming of his Kingdom (Revelation 22).

1. Are you living a life of abandon, passionately pursuing only God’s will for your life? Are you fully investing every area of your life in the eternal hope promised to man in the world to come?

2. Have you placed all your “chips” on a single bet? Have you placed all your eggs in one basket? Or are you reserving some of your time, treasure and talent in a reserve, so that your kingdom here on earth can thrive as well?

(v. 9) We see here that Jesus was crowned with “glory and honor, because of the suffering of death.”

3. Why did Christ’s inauguration as king require suffering of death?

In Matthew 26:38 Christ identifies with us in our suffering: “Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

4. Has your soul ever been overwhelmed with sorrow? To the point you could die? If so, how did God make his presence known and felt?

(v.10) We see here that “in bringing many sons to glory,” the “founder of their salvation” would be “made perfect through suffering.” But, we know that Christ was completely perfect in every way.

5. What does the author mean by this? (Christ’s suffering on the cross, his obedience, even unto death perfectly completed the will of the Father for Christ. This suffering, this perfect completion of his Father’s will was the last act of a perfect life.)
6. Does your passionate pursuit of righteousness lead to suffering in your life?
7. Is God, “bringing many sons to glory” through the righteous witness of your set-apart life?

Group Application Questions

1. What can we conclude from the fact that Jesus will “bring many sons to glory?”
2. Why is it necessary for Jesus to suffer to bring about salvation and sanctification?
3. How is your life showing resolve for the mission of God?

Prayer

Romans 8:17

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his suffering in order that we may also share in his glory.”

The book of Hebrews takes many opportunities to speak on suffering. Take time to share with your group what might be going on in your life that you would like prayer over. After sharing, take time to pray for one another.

*Digging Deeper and Group Application Questions were adapted from Richland Hills Community Church, Kent Hughes’ Hebrews Commentary (An Anchor for the Soul), and The NIV Application Commentary by George H. Guthrie.