

SERMON

Grace Street Fellowship, Dr Jim Burgin, pastor

Sunday, March 3rd, 2018

Series: Faith worth Holding: #4
Finding Purpose in Patience and Pain - Hebrews 2: 5-10

OPENING

Have you ever needed an attitude adjustment and real quick? The story is told about a little boy who found a rat in his back yard. He jumped on it. He stomped on it. And he killed it. He was so proud of himself, & he ran to show it to his mother.

But he didn't realize that the preacher had come to call. So the excited boy ran into the house, carrying the rat by the tail, hollering to his mom, "Mom, look what I found. I found this rat. I jumped on it, I stomped on it, &..." Just then he noticed the preacher & he finished his sentence by saying, "And then the Lord called him home."

INTRODUCTION

1. Are you ever tempted to give up on something or someone you loved? Perhaps a marriage that once thrived lacks emotional connectivity today. Or, a job that you once filled you up with purpose now seems to drain your energy. Perhaps a friendship that was once as much blessing as bond has now become a bane to your soul. Maybe a church that used to thrill your soul just seems boring and empty.
2. The Hebrew people were feeling that way about their faith. The criticism and the suffering hardly seemed worth it, and they were considering going home to Judaism.
3. The author of Hebrews has a message of hope and encouragement, similar to what Jeremiah the prophet said long before: "We all long for rest from the fatigue of living. God placed the desire for rest in our souls, and he promises to fulfill it: "I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish" ([Jeremiah 31:25](#)).
4. Today's money verse is in verse 8: "Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them."

A FAITH WORTH HOLDING

1. Your former spiritual leaders aren't what you remember – the ancestors and prophets were good and important people, but they were only reflections of God, not God Himself. We don't elevate people over Jesus. They reflected God's glory. Jesus is God's glory;
2. Angels are powerful, but they aren't God –Jesus is the name above all names;
3. Religion can't save you – The old way wasn't wrong, but it was incomplete. The sacrificial system could only point to the Lamb of God. The law was a tool of measurement, and it was a hard judge. When you fell short of the Law, you always endured the consequences of the Law. This for that. You mess up, and then you pay. There was no grace. But now you have so great a salvation! You are saved by grace through faith. Don't drift away. Don't neglect what you've been given.

OUR CONDITION IS TEMPORARILY HIDDEN

1. The subject is people Notice verse 6 – “What is man that you are mindful of him?”
 - a. The subject in this instance is not Jesus Christ – Notice also in verse 6 – “What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? We remember that Jesus referred to himself as the “son of man,” so it is easy to think that this verse might be referring to Jesus, but it isn’t.
 - b. “The Son of Man was the way the Old Testament often referred to people.
2. Our world/Our Life is Not as it was meant to be
 - a. The Battle of the Sexes Began – when sin entered the world, a woman’s desire became for her husband, and men began to rule over women. That’s not the original design of creation;
 - b. Childbirth became Painful – Every time a child is born, he enters this world through the process of pain as a reminder about the entrance of sin into the world;
 - c. The earth became unmanageable – The earth was originally subject to people, and it supplied all their needs. People only had to accept and enjoy God’s provisions. If you pay much attention to ecology, you know that we do not rule this world; it rules us. With all our modern technology, we must constantly fight against the earth for our survival.
 - d. The animals became wild – The animal kingdom was now subservient to people only out of fear, no longer out of affection, and much of the animal Kingdom could no longer be tamed at all.
 - e. We live in constant jeopardy now – One pastor said it like this: “Just at the height of professional achievement, our brain may develop a tumor, and we become an imbecile. Just at the brink of athletic fame, we may be injured and become a helpless paralytic. We fight ourselves.. We fight our fellow man, and we fight the earth. Every day we read and hear of the distress of nations, of the impossibility of agreement between political leaders in a world that languishes in political and social conflict – not to mention economic hardship, health hazards, and military threats.
3. But, these circumstances aren’t permanent
 - a. There is a “world to come,” Verse 5:
 - i. World as it was – when God created it.
 - ii. World as it is now
 - iii. World to come

OUR CURRENT VALUE WILL BE REVEALED

1. We are valuable because God cares for us –
 - a. Verse 6 – Who is mankind that God is mindful of us? God is aware of us – watching over us. Like a parent always watching our children from the corner of our eye, no matter what else we are doing.
 - b. Verse 6 – Who are our children that God cares for them. This word “to care” doesn’t mean a passive sighing, or mere emotional affection. It is a word which means “cares so much that action is taken.” The King James says “Who is the son of man that God visits us. In other words, you don’t get in God’s way, because he is coming.
2. Illustration – when I was a child, my younger brother was finishing up a bath and drying off. We didn’t have central heat, so to keep the bathroom warm, we had gas heaters. Rick slipped, and sat down on top of that gas heater, giving him second degree burns. I still remember his scream. I went as fast as I could

to get my parents, only to meet my mother in the hallway. Not only did she not stop to talk, she wasn't careful as she passed me by, accidentally pushing me up against the wall as she ran to my brother. Such is the care of God for us.

OUR AUTHORITY WILL BE RESTORED

1. Made lower than the angels – not hard to figure out. They can fly. We can't. They are spiritual. We aren't. They move in and out of God's presence. We see God with the eyes of faith.
2. Crowned with glory and honor – The author had in mind Genesis 1:26-31. Male and female were created in God's image. God blessed them and told them to fill the earth, subdue it, and rule over it. The crown is *stephanos*, not a victor's crown, but the crown of honor for who you are.
3. Put everything under our feet – In the world to come, angels won't be the one with authority. We will. The word subject is a military word, indicating that we will again be kings.
4. One day we will be lifted up. These circumstances are temporary. When the kingdom comes, hospitals will be closed, doctors will be out of business, and the ravenous nature of wild animals (and of human beings) will be changed. The crops and the trees will no longer be infested. The game of politics will be over and wars will cease. Redeemed people will reign. "And they will hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war. (Isa. 2:4).

CONCLUSION

1. Ron Neal tells a story about a man named Bob who lives in California, a consasuer of garage sales. Making his rounds, and at his last stop, he noticed an old Harley Davison in the corner under a blanket. He asked the owner how much he wanted for it. \$35 was the answer, but the owner quickly explained that the motor was frozen, the bike was rusted, and that Bob could buy a new one for what it would cost to repair this bike. Bob bought it anyway and brought it home. The next day he called Harley Davison to see what some of the parts would cost. The clerk asked for the serial number. Bob waited for a long period of time before the clerk returned to the phone. Sir, I'm going to have to call you back. Can I please have your full name and telephone number. Bob wondered if the bike had been involved in a robbery? Had the bike been stolen or involved in an accident? A few days later, Bob received a call from an executive at Harley Davison. He asked Bob to remove the seat of the Bike to see if anything was written underneath it. Yes, it does, says Bob. It says "the King." The executive said, "My Boss has authorized me to offer you \$300,000 for the bike. Bob was so stunned he could hardly speak. The next day Bob got a call from Jay Leno the talk show host and motorcycle enthusiast who offered Bob a \$500,000 for the bike. You've probably guessed it by now. The King referred to Elvis Presley. The bike Bob had redeemed from the scrap heap had belonged to the King of Rock and Roll. The bike was of incredible value, not because of its present condition, but because of who it belonged to.
2. Ladies and Gentlemen, if you are a Christian, you are of incredible value, because you belonged to the king. Even though your present life may be filled with difficulties and doubt, and maybe even disobedience, God promises us that one day he will restore you to your original condition.

INVITATION