Sermon Notes for November 8, 2015

Jesus Our Helper
Hebrews 2:10-18

Introduction

The idea of a crucified Savior was scandalous in the ancient world.

“But we preach Christ crucified; a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.” I Corinthians 1:23

The author of Hebrews show us that rather than being a disqualification, Jesus’ humanity is fitting and appropriate, even necessary.

In this text, there are 4 word pictures that describe the relationship Jesus has with his people.

I. Jesus is our Trailblazer. Hebrews 2:10

The word author (archegos) can be translated as leader, originator, founder, pioneer or trailblazer.

What is a trailblazer?

Jesus Christ our Savior blazed the trail of salvation that we can now follow.

Our Savior, our trailblazer, was made perfect through suffering – not morally perfect, but perfect as our representative.

He opened the way to bring many sons to glory.

II. Jesus is our Brother. Hebrews 2:11-13

We are of the same family. And he is not ashamed to call us brothers.

The writer draws on two Old Testament passages to make his point. Both are Messianic.

- Psalm 22:22 – Psalm 22 is a remarkable psalm written by David, yet it describes so powerfully what happened to Jesus when he was crucified. In the midst of his suffering, Jesus says, “I will declare your name to my brothers. In the presence of the congregation, I will sing your praise.”
- Isaiah 8:17-18 – Isaiah and his sons were given as signs to a stubborn and obstinate people. Isaiah stands and says, “I will trust you.” Here I am and the children God gave me.”

That’s powerful.
• Jesus declares the character of God to his brothers and sisters.
• Jesus enters into our suffering and calls us to trust him.
• Jesus stands with us in our trials and gives us confidence.

III. Jesus is our Liberator. Hebrews 2:14-16

Jesus entered into our world so that by his death:

• He might destroy him who holds the power of death – the devil.
• And set us free from the fear of death that enslaves us.

Why do we fear death? We fear:

• The pain of death.
• The separation from loved ones.
• The unknown.
• The non-being.
• Eternal punishment.

Except for pain and sadness, Christians are not to fear death.

IV. Jesus is our Great High Priest. Hebrews 2:17-18

One of the qualifications for a high priest is that he had to be like us.

Because Jesus entered our world and took on human flesh, he is a merciful and faithful high priest.

The church stood against ideas about Jesus that needed to be corrected such as:

• Docetism – the idea that Jesus only “seemed” to be a man.
• Apollinarianism – the idea that Jesus had a human body, but a divine mind and spirit.
• Monophysitism – the idea that Jesus had only one nature that was a hybrid, the human nature was taken up and absorbed into the divine nature.

What the church affirmed is that Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Conclusion

Jesus is:

• Our Trailblazer
• Our Brother
• Our Liberator
• Our Great High Priest.
The Heidelberg Confession

Question 1

What is thy only comfort in life and in death?

Answer:

That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who with his precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins, and redeemed me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must work together for my salvation. Wherefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me heartily willing and ready henceforth to live unto him.