

- Church Web Site

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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- In our previous lessons we looked at man's glorious beginning,
 - **2:6 What is man, that you are mindful of him? or the son of man, that you did visit him?**
 - **2:7 You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor, and did set him over the works of your hands:**

- Then at man's failure.

- Genesis 3:17

*And unto Adam he said,...
cursed is the ground for thy sake;
in sorrow shalt thou eat of it
all the days of thy life;*

- And then the sad part:

3:18 *Thorns also and thistles
shall it bring forth to thee;
and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;*

- 3:19 *In the sweat of thy face
shalt thou eat bread,*

- In Hebrews 2:1-8 the writer is talking about mankind.
- Then in Verse 9 the subject changes to Jesus:
“*But now we see Jesus...*”

- This image of Jesus is a striking shift from the descriptions of the divine, exalted Jesus that dominate Hebrews until 2:9.

- What is it that Jesus brings into the story that man can't do for himself?
- After all man has been
 “***crowned with
glory and honor***” (V. 7)
- “***Set over the works of
God's hand***”

- The answer is
found in
Hebrews 2:14.

• Hebrews 2:14

*For as much then
as the children are
partakers of flesh and blood,
he also himself likewise
took part of the same;
that through death
he might destroy him
that had the power of death,
that is, the devil;*

- **Hebrews 2:15**

And deliver them

- ***who through
fear of death***

- ***were all their lifetime
subject to
bondage.***

- In God's original plan
everything was
happiness, joy, peace.
 - If there be any evil,
any suffering and pain,
that is not God's work.
 - God may
permit it,
overrule it,
and out of it
elicit much good;
- But the evil comes not of God.

- The Devil's reign,
on the contrary,
contains nothing good;

- “ *the devil sinneth
from the beginning,*”

- And his dominion
has been one of
temptation to evil
and infliction of misery.

- Death is a part of Satan's dominion,
- He brought sin into the world when he tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit,
 - And with sin he brought also death into the world, with all its woes.

- Since that time Satan **has gloated over** the death of the human race,
- And he has some cause of glory,
for that death **has been universal.**
- There is something **fearful in death.**

- At last count,
the death rate
hovered at
100 %.

- The Devil has been
very successful.

- This is Satan's delight.

- Death is his masterpiece,

because of its terror,

and because of the ruin which it works.

- And death is very lovely
to the devil
for another reason
- Not only because it is his chief
work on earth,
but because it gives him
the finest opportunity in the world
**for the display of his
malice and his craft.**

- There is a world of difference between the way a Christian views death and the way others view it.

- For the unbeliever, death is a dreaded foe, something to be avoided at all costs,
- Something so feared that we try to dismiss it from our minds.

- For the Christian, death is a defeated enemy.
- But more than this, death is actually a blessing.

- **Men are not wrong to fear death.**
 - It is a dreaded enemy to **the unforgiven.**
- ***“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”***
(Romans 3:23).
 - It further indicates to us that ***“the wages of sin is death”***
(Romans 6:23).
 - Death is not an escape from the consequences of sin, for death brings men to the ultimate **judgment of God.**

***" . . . it has been appointed for men to die once,
and after this comes judgment"
(Hebrews 10:27).***

- Death is a dreaded enemy,
and the fear of death
holds men in bondage all their lives.
- Some try to set aside the fear of death
by concluding that after death
there is neither
a heaven to seek
nor a hell to shun.
 - Others simply try to
avoid thinking about death
and its consequences.

- Others convince themselves that they most certainly would not be condemned to hell.
- Unfortunately, all are wrong.
 - None of these solutions to the dilemma of death is adequate.
 - We must take heed to these warnings:

- *Every man's way is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts*
(**Proverbs 21:2**).

- *There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death*
(**Proverbs 14:12**).

- These texts warn us against seeking to find **our own way.**

- God has provided a cure for the fear of death to His children.

- Can you say these words with confidence:

- "O DEATH,
WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?"

- "O DEATH,
WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

- The fear of death is so natural that man spends **a lifetime** **trying not to think about it.**
- Wherein lies the **fear of death?**

- Partly it comes from **fear of the unknown.**
- But still more it comes from **the sense of sin.**
 - If a man felt that he could meet God easily then to die would be only, as Peter Pan said, **a great adventure.**

- But Jesus came to abolish this fear.
- To tell us that God is not only about law,
but love.
- Jesus gives us victory over death.

- ***O death, where is thy sting?***

- A thought given back in

- **Hosea 13:14**

- ***“I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death”.***

- **How many plagues**
have ravaged mankind
over the decades?

- **<https://www.livescience.com/worst-epidemics-and-pandemics-in-history.html>**

- **20 of the worst
epidemics and pandemics
in history**

- **Spanish flu**

(1918) :

500 million

- **Black Death**

(1346-1353):

Half of Europe's population

- But the worst epidemic of all time is:

DEATH.

- When Adam sinned he a
- cast a shadow over the
sunshine and joy
of God's world.
 - Jesus came to
dissipate that shadow,
 - To bring back
sunshine and joy
 - By bringing
life and immortality
to light.

- 2 Timothy 1:10

“The appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

- It was the message of Jesus that death was the way to life,
- And that instead of separating men from God,
- It brought men into his presence.

- In the Garden of Eden,
God promised Adam and Eve
that the devil
would be defeated,
- And that the dreaded consequences
of their sin
in the Garden
would be reversed,
 - That He would
provide a solution.

- He promised a Savior, who would be born of the woman, who would destroy the devil (**Genesis 3:15**).
- A chilling sermon for the Devil.
- But a glimpse of hope for lost mankind.

- A **limerick** for those in doubt:

- **Our race had a noble beginning,**
- **but man spoiled his chances by sinning.**

- **We hope that the story will end in God's glory**

- **But at present the other side's winning.”**

- But the author of Hebrews **denies that limerick.**

- And gives us **hope.**

- When John the Baptist introduced Jesus, he said,
 - "***Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!***"
(**John 1:29**).
 - His disciples did not want to hear it or believe it,
 - But Jesus often told them that He would die for the sins of lost mankind,
 - And that He would rise from the grave.
- A seemingly unbelievable story.
 - But true.

- Luke 19:10

**The Son of Man
has come to
seek and to save
the lost."**

- **Revelation 14:13**

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write,

- **Blessed are the dead**

- ***which die in the Lord from henceforth:***

- ***Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.***

- A voice from **where**?

- **Heaven** did He say?

- **Are you listening?**

- **Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.**
 - This idea occurs **more than once** in the New Testament.
(1 Thessalonians 4:16)
(1 Corinthians 15:18).
- All speaking about **death in wonderful terms.**

- Hebrews 2:15

“*Scare to death of death*”

(Message Bible Paraphrase)

- Our Heavenly Dwelling

2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that when this tent we live in---our body here on earth---is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last forever.

(GNB)

- The body which awaits us after death is **incorruptible** and **eternal**.
 - The Christian does not cling to this earthly life, as though this was all that there is, but longs for heaven.

Revelation 22:20

“Come, Lord Jesus!”

- **Death**
is the doorway to heaven,
and holds no fear or dread
for all who are in Christ.

- The following are words the Devil doesn't want to hear.

- **O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?**

- **O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"**
(**1 Corinthians 15:55**)

- Jesus didn't come just to take the devil down **a notch or two.**

- He came to **destroy the devil.**

- **Hebrews 2:14**

***For as much then
as the children are
partakers of flesh and blood,***

- ***He also himself likewise
took part of the same;***

- ***That through death***

- ***He might destroy him
that had the power of death,***

- ***that is, the devil.***

- In closing let us notice that Jesus came to

“*deliver us*”.

(**Hebrews 2:15**)

- Have you been

“*delivered*”?

- Or are you still

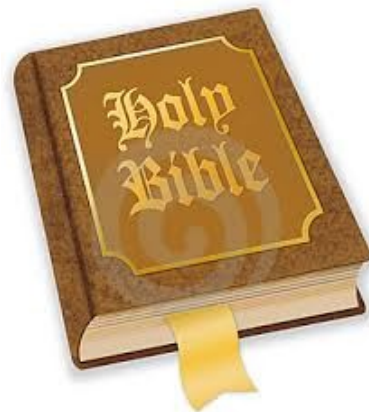
“*in bondage*”?

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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