

ALL IN THE FAMILY (OF GOD)

#6: Oh, Brother!

February 17-19, 2007

^{2:10}In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹²He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises." ¹³And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." ¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. ^{3:1}Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. . . ⁶Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory. *Hebrews 2:10-3:1,6 TNIV*

Introduction: In past weeks, we have discovered that the key to understanding God's family and becoming God's children is Jesus Christ. We have learned that we are adopted into God's family and freed from the custodianship of the law through the cross of Jesus (his blood) in order that we might become "children of light." We have tested our inclusion in God's family by taking the paternity test: (a) do we follow Jesus' commandments, and (b) do we love God's family, the Body of Christ. And we have seen that Jesus first identified God as Heavenly Father and taught us to belong to God's family. All of this is possible because Jesus became our brother, living in the flesh as we do to claim us for the family.

- I. The Perfect Pioneer
 - A. God fulfilled His plan by sending the perfect pioneer, Jesus, to lead us to rediscover God's creation. (v.2:10)
 - B. Since suffering is the essential test of human existence resulting from our fallen nature, Jesus was perfected in his triumphant suffering. (v.10)
 - C. Through Christ's suffering, the destiny of humanity proclaimed in Psalm 8 and Hebrews 2:6-8, is fulfilled.
- II. The Bragging Brother
 - A. Jesus came not as a paternal figure, but as our brother to claim us for God's family by making us holy. (v.11)
 - B. Jesus is not ashamed to call those of us who accept the redemption of his cross his brothers and sisters. (v.11)
 - C. Jesus came to reintroduce his brothers and sisters to his Father in order to create a new family. (vv.12-13)
 - D. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's redemptive work:
 1. Verse 12 is quoted from Psalm 22:22,
 2. Verse 13 is quoted from Isaiah 8:17, and
 3. Verse 14 is quoted from Isaiah 8:18.
- III. The Humiliated High Priest
 - A. Jesus participated in the humiliation of humanity, even experiencing the bitterness of death, in order to redeem his brothers and sisters. (vv.14-16)
 - B. Jesus became entirely like us in order to atone for our sinful shortcomings and become our high priest, the one who intercedes on our behalf before the Father. (v.17)
 - C. By living life perfectly, as God intended and according to God's plan, Jesus remade the family of God. (v.17)
 - D. Having experienced temptation as we do, Jesus is able to help us live holy and redeemed lives. (v.18)
- IV. The Fixed Family
 - A. What now binds us together as the family of God is that we share the same mission or "heavenly calling." (v.3:1)
 - B. We achieve holy living by fixing our thoughts on Jesus, because we become what we think about. (v.1)
 - C. God's Son, Jesus, is the faithful head of God's house, our big brother who claims us as God's family. (v.2)

Conclusion: We are finally drawn to a moment of decision: we cannot belong to God's family unless we are completely committed to Jesus Christ. To reject the Son, our brother, is to reject the Father and accept death as our eternal destiny.