

**Grace, Mercy, and Peace are your in abundance through faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

<sup>9</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup> In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. **This is God's Word.**

**Dear fellow brothers and sisters in Christ,**

In school I remember learning about the different senses we have. These different senses allow us to smell, and to see, and to hear, and to touch, and to taste. All different ways to experience and determine what is around us. When we think of our faith and salvation, we think of the sense of hearing, because we know that, **“Faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.”** (Romans 10:17).

When we come to church we listen with our ears and we watch and read with our eyes. Those are (2) main senses we use but there are others that help us grow in our faith and understand our salvation. This morning we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. There we will use other senses as we touch and taste the bread and wine and receive Christ's body and blood along with the bread and wine. This reminds us that we don't have to taste death anymore, because Christ has tasted death for everyone. As we taste the bread and wine, we are tasting the forgiveness of sins and the new life Christ won for us on the cross.

So as we consider these words from the book of Hebrews, let's do so under the theme, **“Christ Tasted Death for Everyone.”** He did this as, **“The Perfect Sacrifice,”** and He did this, **“To Bring Us into His Family.”**

**I.** The book of Hebrews was written because people in the church were being persecuted for being Christians. The particular group that was attacking them were called Judaizers. They wanted the Christians to go back to the old forms of worship. They liked to have a specific set of rules to follow – something they could do for their own salvation and didn't agree with the teaching that salvation was by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus as Savior.

The writer of Hebrews wrote this book to encourage the people not to throw away this gift of salvation. To not become stagnant in their faith, but to point them to Jesus as the Perfect Savior from sin. To point them to God's Word which guides us and has the answer for all our needs. To encourage them to stand up to anyone who would lead them away from Jesus, their Lord and Savior.

Our text points out that Jesus was the perfect sacrifice. Verse 9 tells us, **“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”** When these words say he was made lower than the angels, it means that he became human. We confessed

that earlier in our service in the Nicene Creed, **“He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.”**

Jesus had to be human so that He could keep all of God’s law for us perfectly and as part of fulfilling all of God’s commands, He tasted death for us. Not just a sip, but he drank the whole cup of suffering for the sins of the world.

He endured persecution. He endured being beaten and whipped, and he endured death on a cross. While he was on that cross he endured the punishment for our sins. Our text tells us, **“It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.”** Jesus was not imperfect, but in respect to salvation, the world was made perfect by the suffering and sacrifice of Christ. The Old Testament people had to make sacrifice after sacrifice, but those sacrifices were never enough. They only pointed to the perfect sacrifice that Jesus would make for the world. Salvation was complete. Jesus paid for the sins of the world.

He paid for all the sins of the world. For the sins of Pontius Pilate who condemned him to death. For the sins of Judas who betrayed him. For the sins of the Paul who persecuted Christians. For your sins and for my sins. He paid for them all. The Apostle Paul wrote, **“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly,”** Christ died for the sins of the whole world – for the ungodly. Sad to say, the ungodly have either rejected Christ’s sacrifice or simply hardened their hearts. But Christ died for our sins too didn’t he? We aren’t ungodly are we?

When we push God’s Word away, or say evil things, or live our lives guided by the world instead of God’s Word, we are also just like the ungodly and deserve the same judgment of eternal death. By God’s grace, we have been brought to faith. Through God’s Word the Holy Spirit has created faith in our hearts and that faith recognizes the perfect sacrifice that Jesus made for our sins.

That perfect sacrifice is evident because Jesus has been crowned with glory and honor and now is in heaven ruling for the benefit of all believers. The crown of glory and honor comes as a result of the perfect sacrifice he made when he tasted death for everyone. We too shall wear a crown of glory when we join our Savior in heaven. We have that sure hope of salvation because we are part of God’s Family. We have all the blessings of salvation through faith and that faith is what makes us a member of God’s family.

Jesus came to earth, suffered, died, and rose again for one purpose – so that sinners would be saved. The name Jesus means, **“The Lord Saves.”** In order to do that, he had to become part of our human family. That was the only way to win the victory over sin, death, and the devil and now our text points out that, **“Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.”** He is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters because we have been made holy through his Word. While here on earth, Jesus described his family as, **“My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s Word and put it into practice.”** (Luke 8:21). We have been made members of God’s family through his word and reflect our faith in the way we live our lives – the way we put God’s Word into practice. It’s easy to hear God’s Word – to hear the Gospel, but what does it mean to reflect

our faith in our lives – to live as a member of God’s Family? That’s something that is a little harder to do.

It means to take every opportunity to hear God’s Word even when it’s raining outside and we want just another hour or two of sleep. It means taking a few minutes each day to talk to your children, not only about them and their day, but also about God and to pray with them. It means to love your neighbor as yourself. To hold your tongue and not publicly ridicule someone, but to talk to them personally and to pray that God would help you to settle any differences. It means to take each day as it comes and to thank God for the blessings he has brought you that day and to ask God for help with the challenges that have come into your life. None of these things are easy to do consistently, but we can do them with the help of our Savior who has made us part of his family. Who supports us with His Word in spite of our failings.

We all are members of earthly families. That is part of who we are and we accept those members of our family as they are because they are members of our family. Remember that with your church family also. We are all members of a spiritual family and just like our earthly family, none of us is perfect and so accept each other as we are.

And as we accept each other,

We Rejoice in the fact that Christ has made us each a member of his family through faith.

We Rejoice in the fact that he has tasted the complete cup of punishment for our sins.

We Rejoice in the fact that our sins are forgiven.

Rejoice and Give thanks for your spiritual family here on earth and proudly call them your brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.