



# Around the Word Bible Study

Lent, 2016

## The Blood of Christ Hebrews 2:10-18

### On the Incarnation:

"He takes on the poverty of my flesh, that I may gain the riches of his divinity. He who is full is made empty; he is emptied for a brief space of his glory, that I may share in his fullness. What is this wealth of goodness? What is this mystery that surrounds me? I received the likeness of God, but failed to keep it. He takes on my flesh, to bring salvation to the image, immortality to the flesh. He enters into a second union with us, a union far more wonderful than the first."

—Gregory of Nazianzus

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### Session 1: "The Blood That Is Shared"

Have you ever wondered what blood type Jesus was? Of course it is a silly question; one with an answer that could never be more than speculation, and one with an answer that would be of little (if any) consequence for the Christian faith. But the fact that it is a potential question reminds us that Jesus Christ, fully God, was also fully human. The one who came to save us and all humanity did so as one who shared in our humanity – He shared in our blood. It is for this reason that His shed blood could atone for all of our sins. God took human flesh and blood upon himself so as to save humanity.

#### Opening: Psalm 40

<sup>1</sup>I waited patiently | for the LORD;\*  
he inclined to me and | heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup>**He drew me up from the pit of  
destruction, out of the | miry bog,\*  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my | steps secure.**

<sup>3</sup>He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise | to our God.\*  
Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust | in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>**Blessed is the man who makes  
the | LORD his trust,\*  
who does not turn to the proud,  
to those who go astray af- | ter a lie!**

<sup>5</sup>You have multiplied, O LORD my God,  
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts  
toward us; none can com- | pare with you!\*  
I will proclaim and tell of them,  
yet they are more than | can be told.

<sup>6</sup>**Sacrifice and offering you have not  
desired, but you have given me an |  
open ear.\***

**Burnt offering and sin offering  
you have | not required.**

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, "Behold, | I have come;\*  
in the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of  
me:

<sup>8</sup>**I desire to do your will, | O my God;\*  
your law is with- | in my heart."**

<sup>9</sup>I have told the glad news of deliverance  
in the great congre- | gation;\*  
behold, I have not restrained my lips,  
as you know, | O LORD.

<sup>10</sup>**I have not hidden your deliverance within  
my heart;**

**I have spoken of your faithfulness and  
your sal- | vation;\***

**I have not concealed your steadfast love**

**and your faithfulness  
from the great congre- | gation.**

<sup>11</sup>As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain  
your mer- | cy from me;\*  
your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
will ever pre- | serve me!

<sup>12</sup>**For evils have encompassed me  
beyond number; my iniquities have  
overtaken me, and I | cannot see;\***  
**they are more than the hairs of my head;  
my heart | fails me.**

<sup>13</sup>Be pleased, O LORD, to de- | liver me!\*  
O LORD, make haste to | help me!

<sup>14</sup>**Let those be put to shame and  
disappointed altogether who seek to  
snatch a- | way my life;\***  
**let those be turned back and brought to  
dishonor who de- | sire my hurt!**

<sup>15</sup>Let those be appalled because | of their  
shame\*  
who say to me, "A- | ha, Aha!"

<sup>16</sup>**But may all who seek you  
rejoice and be | glad in you;\***  
**may those who love your salvation  
say continually, "Great | is the LORD!"**

<sup>17</sup>As for me, I am poor and needy,  
but the Lord takes | thought for me.\*  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
do not delay, | O my God!  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Read Hebrews 2:10-18

**v.10: For it was fitting that he, for whom and  
by whom all things exist, in bringing many  
sons to glory, should make the founder of**

**their salvation perfect through suffering.**

What important confession about Jesus is being made in the first half of this verse? Compare John 1:2-4. How does the rest of the verse inform why this is important to the work of salvation which Jesus has accomplished for us?

Read or skim Exodus 14 (esp. v.17-18); Exodus 16:6-18; Exodus 24:1-11 & 16-18; John 1:14; John 6:1-7, 11-16, 20-27 & 38-44. Note how the glory of God is manifested in His provision to His people and in His tangible presence for and among them.

What does this tell us about the glory into which Jesus is bringing us? Compare 1 Cor. 15:42-49, 2 Cor. 4:7-18, Col 3:1-4, 2 Thess. 2:13-17)

What is presently one way that God is tangibly present among and for us? (cf. 1 Cor 11:23-26)

**v.11-13:** <sup>11</sup>For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, <sup>12</sup>saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." <sup>13</sup>And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me."

Jesus is the one who sanctifies and we are the ones who are sanctified. Who/what is our source? Compare Rom. 8:29

Verse 12 quotes Psalm 22:22. What is that Psalm all about? See also John 20:17 (and its context). How do these passages enhance our understanding of what it means for Jesus Christ to call us "brothers?"

Verse 13 is quoting Isaiah 8:18, where the prophet refers to his own family. How does the fact that Isaiah and his children are signs from the Lord of Israel relate to our life in Christ?

**v.14-17:** <sup>14</sup>Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup>For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Read Philippians 2:5-9. How does it correspond with this passage

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from Hebrews?

Read Romans 6:15-23. How do Paul's words enhance our understanding of what it means in v.15 that Jesus Christ delivered those who through fear of death were subject to slavery?

Read Hebrews 5:1-10. How does this inform us concerning Jesus' role as high priest (v.17) and help us understand the connection between this role and that of our brother who shares in our flesh and blood?



In the *Book of Concord*, the Formula of Concord (Epitome Art I, 5-6) quotes these verses and notes, "(Jesus Christ) did not receive a foreign nature, but our own flesh in the unity of His person. In this way He has become our true Brother.... Christ redeemed human nature as His work, sanctifies it, raises it from the dead, and gloriously adorns it as His work" How do these words from help us to understand the significance of these verses from Hebrews?

**v.18:** For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Read Genesis 3 and then read Matthew 4:1-11. How does the temptation of Adam and Eve correspond with our temptation today? Note how Adam and Eve fall prey to temptation even in the midst of the abundance of the

garden whereas Christ successfully endures and resists temptation even after having spent 40 days and nights fasting in a barren wilderness (the opposite of a garden). How does Jesus undo the fall by His own endurance of the Devil's temptation? How does this help us to understand what it means that He "helps us who are being tempted?"

How does Jesus being incarnate and sharing in our flesh and blood work to give efficacy to His endurance of temptation and His suffering for us?

**Closing: Praise to You and Adoration (LSB, 692)**

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