

Humanity in Christ Jesus

This morning, I will be sharing on the humanity of Christ. As I began considering this, I was a bit overwhelmed that we are touching something that is very sacred—the humanity of our Lord Jesus.

I want to say a prayer this morning to help us:

Lord, as we come this morning to You, we are totally dependent on You. We feel so inadequate, particularly in this matter, Lord Jesus, of Your humanity. We thank You that You have rent the veil; you have provided the means by which we can enter in even into Your presence. We thank You, Lord Jesus, that You have provided the Holy Spirit by which He can bring us clarity and revelation of who You are. Lord, not just an understanding but a real seeing, a real revelation. Lord, this morning I just want to come, and we all want to stand under that open heaven. Lord, we pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the anointing to be able to speak and to be able to receive. Lord, we come to You, saying, we would see Jesus. Lord, bless this time, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Son of Man

As we consider the Lord Jesus Christ, we know that He is the Son of God, and He is the Son of Man. The Son of God shows us the relationship that He has with God the Father. The Son of Man shows us the relationship He has with humanity, with man, and with you and me. He became a Man when He was incarnated, but He did not lose His deity. However, it does say that He emptied Himself. What does that mean? It means that He set aside His glory and the attributes of His deity. Now we know He set aside His glory because in John 17 the Lord said, “Father, restore unto Me the glory that I had with You.” And we also know that He set aside His attributes as deity. One example: He was no longer omnipresent as a Man. As God He was everywhere, but as a Man He limited Himself to time and space like we are; He was limited by time and space like us.

The miracles that our Lord performed were not out from Himself, even though He was deity, and deity has all power. But the power that He had came through the Holy Spirit from the Father, and He expressed it as a Man in His humanity. So, He was able as a Man to express the power of God on this earth.

Totally Dependence on the Father

While He was Son of Man in His humanity on earth, He was totally dependent on heaven, on the Father. He lived a life of absolute dependence. And brothers and sisters, that is what is so hard for us. We are so independent-minded in our fallen human nature. But the Lord, as Man, who had a new humanity, a perfect man, became totally dependent on His Father and the power of the Holy Spirit to speak to Him. That is how He humbled Himself as a Man.

Whatever He did, whatever He said was not out from Himself, through His self-life; it was always from the Father and through the power of the Holy Spirit. His self-life was a pure self-life, but it was not His resource for His actions and for His life.

In John 5:19, the Lord Himself said this: “I can do nothing out from Myself but what I see the Father do, whatsoever things the Father does, these I also do.”

A Perfect Man

That was the principle by which He lived all His life, and that is the life that the Lord has called us to; to learn that very simple life of complete dependence. Knowing Christ in His humanity is absolutely vital for the Christian life. Without the facts and truth of the reality of the perfect humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ, we really cannot live the Christian life. Only the perfect Man, such as Jesus was, can deliver man from his guilt and the power of sin. Only Christ, as a perfect Man, could become God's perfect, spotless Lamb. Only that perfect Man in Christ Jesus, His perfect humanity, could cause us to be reconciled to God. If Christ was not the perfect Man, you would not have an open heaven today. You would not have fellowship with God, and you would be without hope in this world. In our Lord Jesus Christ as Man, there was no sin in Him; He was perfect, a perfect Man in every way. And this is very important. He was the man God intended Adam to be, and He was also the man that He intended for all of us to be. He was the man that He intended for you and me to be. He is so other than we are, and we know that.

A Man in Glory

At His ascension He did not put off His humanity. He went back to the throne as a Son of Man, and He sits at God's right hand. You know that song we sing, "There's a Man in the glory whose life is for me." He was triumphant as a Man. When you were born again of the Spirit, Christ came into your life. Now we say that; we talk to our children about Christ coming into their hearts to accept Him.

Brothers and sisters, I do not know that we truly appreciate what that means, and what has happened in our lives when we say that Christ has come into our heart. It is that triumphant humanity that has come into your heart. It is that perfect humanity in Christ that has come into your life. However, it is in Christ; it is not in your old self-life, and never will be. It is always in Christ, but Christ is in you, and that is the life that is available to us. As I thought about this, I said, "Lord, forgive me; how little I take advantage of that Life, that perfect Life, that perfect humanity that is in me. It is a life that we will learn to depend on rather than on ourselves as we continue to grow in Christ.

Purpose of Humanity

So, what is the purpose of humanity? Genesis 1:26: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: ..."

After His image and likenesses means that it is after His character, after His nature, after His likeness. No other of His creation had this quality; even the angels were not made in His image and after His likeness. Man was a very special preeminent part of the Lord's creation and with great intent He created man.

Genesis 5:2 says, "Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam (man), ..."

The humanity of man was not deity, but man became a special vessel created to be an expression of God, to be an expression of His character, of His heart, and to be able to express His heart and mind. That is a very special purpose for which you and I were created. We know this

because Christ, the perfect Man said, “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.” In other words, Christ as perfect Man is the One who can fully reveal and express God to us, and that Life is in you and me.

Later, the Apostle Paul said, “It pleased God to reveal His Son in me.” That is amazing, isn’t it? God has created you that He might reveal His Son in you, this perfect humanity of our Lord Jesus. This was God’s heart, brothers, and sisters. We have not received a life like the angels; we are created after the image and likeness of God.

I was touched by how precious man is to God. You are precious to the Lord Jesus; you are a precious vessel. We know that because we just had the Lord’s Table. We know He gave His life for us, that He paid the price for our sins so that we might be reconciled to God. That is how precious He is to us, but that tells us how precious we are to Him. Even after man fell, He did not just do away with Adam. He gave them those coats of skin as a covering so that he could still have fellowship with them. But even at that, fellowship was clouded because of the fallen nature of Adam.

History of Humanity

Let us look at the history of humanity a little bit. We need to see clearly that we today have a fallen humanity, but we also have within that perfect humanity in Jesus Christ.

Psalms 8:4-6 is the first mention of Son of man in the Bible: “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou made him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:”

The Fall

This is the place, the position which Adam had before his fall. This is his original condition, the original place that God intended for him. We know that Christ becomes the real fulfillment of all this, but it was Adam’s in the very beginning. But we know that God intended before Adam fell that he would mature and grow. He had this humanity from God, but that humanity needed to grow and mature and grow into fullness. And do you know how he was going to do that? By voluntarily taking of the tree of life. In other words, he was to be fully dependent on the tree of life. For Adam’s humanity to become full and to the glory that God intended for it, he would have to become totally dependent on the tree of life. But Adam was tested in this, and he was warned about not eating the tree of the knowledge of good and evil but to eat of the tree of life. However, Adam chose to live an independent life, a life not depending on God or the tree of life but on his knowledge of good and evil. What a tragedy! *What a tragedy!!*

But don’t we find ourselves wanting to live an independent life sometimes? I say this with the blood of Jesus Christ. Sometimes we are very independent, not depending on God but on ourselves. Adam failed, and that failed humanity, the failed human nature in Adam was passed on to all the future generations, and I think we know that. It was passed on even to you and me. We know this because Adam’s first born, Cain, killed his brother, Abel; it was a failed humanity. And this humanity never improved; it just got worse and worse. The knowledge of good and evil

did not help them; it just condemned them. It progressively got worse until God could bear it no more. The depravity of man got so bad that it increased beyond the point of no return.

The Flood

Kenny, in his message last week, mentioned the lift and the drag of an airplane, but if you take off in a commercial airplane, going down the runway, when you get to a certain speed, you reach the point of no return; you no longer have a choice. You cannot shut the engines down because you have lifted off. All you can do is add power and go on. That is called the point of no return.

Humanity reached its point of no return as we find in Genesis 6:5-6: “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.” The Lord was grieved in His heart and said in verse 7a: “And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth.” That is the nature of that old man, and brothers and sisters, unfortunately it is still with us.

So, God flooded the earth, and He destroyed all of mankind and the creatures except for Noah and his family. Genesis 6:8 says, “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” Think of that! I do not know how many millions of people were on the earth at that time but only one man and his family were found righteous before God.

What do I mean by “righteous before God?” Noah believed God, and he obeyed God. He built the ark, which represented Christ, and it became his salvation. It is amazing how depraved humanity is, and we are all born with it. No matter how good a person you might be, that old nature is still there. Even the good things are as filthy rags when you compare them to the humanity of Jesus Christ.

Failure! No Remedy!

The history of the Old Testament testifies to the failure of this humanity. When you come to the last book, Malachi, what does it show us? These were the remnant, the ones that still knew God or knew about God, but what does He say of these ones? Everybody had fallen away, but there were still some that believed in God, but even they were falling away from Him. And Malachi spoke a judgment upon God’s people. God says in Malachi, “If I am your Father, where is My honor? You are not honoring Me as Your Father. I am your Master, but you do not fear Me. You offer to me offerings that are polluted; they are stained, they are of no value (see Malachi 1:6-7).” Then He says, and we need to listen to this: “... I have no pleasure in you, ...” (see Malachi 1:10). That is the tragic story of the Old Testament, and as it closes in Malachi, humanity has not obtained; humanity has failed. You must stamp it with the big word, FAILURE. You have this big stamp, and it says, FAILURE! It is the whole history of mankind in relation to God—FAILURE.

What does this say to us? In humanity there is an evil heart of unbelief. We see it in ourselves at times. It has become a hardness of heart. Man’s heart became hardened, and it hardened and hardened and hardened again. It was hardened against the Word of God. It was hardened against the word of the prophets. It was hardened against the revelation that God had given. Even with all the revelation that man has been given, his heart is still hardened. Man, even hardened his

heart against Christ Himself. What we learned at the end of the book of the Old Testament is that humanity had gone beyond the point of no return, and God said, "You have so hardened your heart and said, 'No' to My ways, that there is no remedy."

O Wretched Man that I am!

To appreciate the humanity of Christ we need to see our humanity, that old humanity that we have inherited from Adam. What we would consider good in ourselves in our flesh, God sees as filthy rags.

The Apostle Paul saw it in himself. Kenny just went through Romans 6, 7, and 8, and Paul saw. He was a Christian, but he looked at his self, and he tried to deal with his self-life, the defiled humanity. He tried to reform it, he tried to control it, and he came to his wit's end. In desperation he cried out in Romans 7:24a, "O wretched man that I am!" Have you got to that point in your Christian life? "O wretched man that I am!" Brothers and sisters, we need to see that, but we do not need to end with that. He said, "Who can deliver me from this body of death? I thank God through Jesus Christ because that is where he found the perfect humanity.

Christ the New Humanity that God Is After

And that is what the New Testament is all about because it brings in the new humanity that God is after. He brings it to us in Jesus Christ who is the final and full type of the humanity that God is going to have. It is a tremendous thing that is here in Christ. All of that belongs to the perfection of man, and it is found in Jesus Christ. If you want to see perfect humanity, you need to look at Jesus Christ. And thank God He came to this earth as a Man to show us what perfect humanity is, and that we can have it through simple faith. He has become the humanity that represents all that God wants in man.

Christ the Last Adam and the Second Man

In I Corinthians it says that the first man was Adam; he failed, and we have failed. In him there was no hope. But then Christ came, and it says of Him, "He is the last Adam." That tells you something. If Christ came in humanity as the last Adam, He represented Adam and all that defiled humanity. So, what does He do with that Adam? In representing this fallen humanity, what does He do? He takes it into death with Him on the cross. That is what He has done with this old humanity. He takes it with Him into death. And He ended the Adamic race whether you realize it or not. He ended the race in God's eyes; it is over; it is gone; it is obliterated; it is no longer there. Thank God for that! It is something that God has done. You cannot do it, but God has done it; the Adamic race has ended in the last Adam, our Lord Jesus.

But there is more. God is not going to try to reform Adam. He just puts him away in death. But there is more. It also says that Christ came as God's second Man, the new perfect humanity. Christ becomes the Man God intended Adam to be. And this second Man rises from the dead, triumphant over death. The Word of God says, "You are in Christ." When you accept Jesus Christ, He does come into your heart, but you are also put into Christ. In your fallen humanity you were taken to the cross in Christ and put away. I do not know if you realize that you are dead, but you

are. That old humanity is dead in Christ. If you look inside you are going to see him very active, but if you look at Christ, and that is where you are, that old humanity is dead.

This Humanity is in Us

Brothers and sisters, it is an amazing spiritual thing that has taken place. You have gone to the cross in Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! When you really see your humanity, thank the Lord, "I agree with You, Lord. You needed to put this thing away; it is terrible." But just as you went into death with Christ on the cross, you rose again in Christ as He rose from the grave. And it says in the Word that you became a new creation in Him. You have become a new creation, a new humanity in Christ, and it is in you. The second Man is in you. That explains a lot about Galatians 2:20 where Paul says, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, ..." That is the perfect humanity in you.

The whole of humanity, the old fallen nature has been put aside, and the new humanity has been brought in by Jesus Christ. It says, "He is the firstborn among many brethren." So now He is the firstborn of this new humanity, and now you have been born into it as well.

Now here is the problem. You know already you have that old humanity in you, and it has been done away with in Christ. Nevertheless, it must be made practical in your life, and that is a progressive thing. But how does it end in you? It has ended in you through the discipline of the Holy Spirit and the work of the cross in your life. As He begins to cut away that old nature in you, He reveals it to you in some aspect of your daily life. He says that is the old man, and you say, "I agree with You, Lord; he is dead, and I put him off." And that is how it is practically worked out. In other words, you are becoming what you already are in Christ. *You are becoming what you already are in Christ.* And that is a mystery really, but it is spiritual; it is from God, and it is God's way. *You are becoming what you already are in Christ.* Thank the Lord for that. Remember this, you will never find that new perfect humanity in yourself, in your self-life; it is always in Christ. That is why it says you must keep your eyes on Jesus. If you keep your eyes on yourself, it will be tragic.

In Pilgrim's Progress, Christian was out in the field raking the mud, and he kept looking down at the mud. And the golden glory was above him, but he always kept looking at the mud. He was looking for something good, and it was right there above him all the time. He just would not lift his head to look up at it. That is just a little example of the life we are living today. It is a great transformation that God is doing in our lives. He is transforming us into the image of Christ. That is why He wants to bring many sons to glory, and He is committed to that. He is committed to bringing you to glory. What does that mean? It means to bring you to the fulness of Christ, who is in you, to be transformed into His image. Paul said it very clearly: "It is not I; it is Christ."

In Ephesians 4:22-24 he says, "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Put off, put on; it is like a cloak, put off, put on. It has been done in Christ, but he said, "Put that coat off; it is no good. It has holes in it. Put on the new one."

The New Humanity in Christ

Let us look at the new humanity in Christ. And this was really my burden. The rest of it was needed to really see this new humanity in Christ. I pray that the Lord will open our eyes. I know my speaking is poor, but may the Lord open our eyes to see this new humanity in Christ.

Apart from sin, Christ is one of us. He is like us; He is touched with the same feelings that we have. He experienced the same infirmities that we experience. It says in all points He was tempted like we are tempted. And so, He can help those that are tempted. That is our Lord Jesus.

Compassionate and Merciful

When you look at His miracles, it reflects the compassion and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wasn't He always merciful? I remember the widow of Nain found in Luke. Her son was being carried through the city because he had passed away. They had him on a platform, carrying him through the city, and the Lord looked at the situation, and Luke says, "He had compassion." It just touched His heart, so compassionate, and He went and touched that platform, and the young man was brought back to life. Oh, how desperately this widow woman needed her son, and the Lord brought him back to life. That was the compassion of our Lord's heart. It just touched Him.

I think of the ten lepers as the Lord was passing by them. He did not go to them. But they started yelling for Him, and He turned around and healed all ten lepers. He was so compassionate. He went to them, touched them, and healed them. Nobody wanted to touch a leper, but He did. And look at our Lord's heart. Nine went away, but one recognized Him and returned, bowed down and worshipped Him. And what did the Lord say? "Where are the other nine?" Our Lord's heart was wounded. He had reached out in a mighty deliverance, and delivered these ones from a great disease, (which represents sin in our lives). Even though He healed them, the nine did not return to thank Him, and He was hurt and pointed it out.

His heart was revealed in the parables. I think of the prodigal son. We all know the story. The prodigal said, "Dad, I want my inheritance now, I am going away." He goes away, and he wastes all his inheritance. It is all gone, and he is living among the pigs, eating the corn cobs that are fed to the pigs. He finally wakes up and sees his condition and says, "I will go back to my father; I will just be a slave in his house. They are a lot better off than I am." He goes back. And what does the father do? He sees him in the distance. I do not know how long he was gone, but every day he must have been looking out over the horizon, and he sees his son coming. Does he just wait there in indignation ready to admonish his son? No! He runs up to him and grabs him, and he hugs him, and he receives him with joy and gives him a feast. He forgives him and even restores him to his former place. That is the heart of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Took the Form of a Servant, Was Made in the Likeness of Men

Think of His physical life on earth. He was born a helpless baby. As a child He submitted Himself to the authority of His parents. He was hungry; He got thirsty; He worked, and He got weary. He had to rest and sleep like we do. He suffered physical pain. He learned a trade, His father's trade, a carpenter, and He worked at that trade for fourteen years. His life was a moral life. He always had a sense of duty about Him of unswerving duty. At twelve years old He was

found in the temple with the teachers, and His father and mother questioned Him: “Why did You do this to us?” And He said, “Don’t you know I had to be about My Father’s business?” He had an unswerving sense of duty. He was conscious of right and wrong. He knew the pressures of temptation and resisted them. Satan tempted Him in the desert, and He overcame. He loved His Father. He had a life of self-denial. Even at Calvary He denied Himself, and He said, “Father, not My will but Thine.” That perfect humanity: He was always sincere. He was a very courageous Man as He faced the hatred of the Pharisees and the scribes.

He was always humble, and we can never forget at the Lord’s table how the disciples were arguing about who was going to be first in the kingdom. And the Lord just humbled Himself, the perfect Man, and washed the feet of those imperfect disciples.

Emotionally, He experienced joy and sorrow, wonder and surprise. He expressed love and anger. He got indignant with the Pharisees, and He called them vipers and sons of the devil, but it was righteous indignation. And that is something that in our old humanity we could never have.

He felt pain of disappointment. Oh, how the disciples disappointed our Lord, but He was faithful. He loved them to the end. He wept; He wept over Jerusalem; He wept at Lazarus’ grave. Mentally, He grew in wisdom and stature, which is what the Word says. He learned like we do. His mind developed as ours do. They say that we use about ten percent, but I am sure His was one hundred percent, but He had a perfect mind, the most brilliant mind ever on this earth.

As He grew, He became aware that God was His Father. Joseph had taken care of Him on earth, but He realized that God was His Father. At twelve He said, “Don’t you know I have to be about My Father’s business?” And it was not carpentry about which He was talking. He did learn, and in that same incident when they went back to the temple and found Him, what was He doing? It says that He was listening to the teachers and asking them questions. They were amazed at His understanding and answers; He learned, so He knew the Old Testament. As a Man He was not Omniscient which means “all-knowing.”

Now as I read the gospels, I say that it sure appears He was all-knowing, but He was not. Just as I said a moment ago, He learned. He was asking questions and learning. Also, He acted on the information that He received. For instance, at the death of John the Baptist He said, “He departed into a desert place.” And when He heard of Lazarus’ death, He waited two days. So, it was based on what He was hearing. It is a mystery. The Son of God, the all-knowing One, the Omniscient One, and yet as Son of Man, His knowledge was limited.

Now if you are still not convinced, remember when Jesus was talking to the disciples concerning the end days, and Jesus said, “No one knows, not even the Son, only the Father.” He was limited. He learned from the Word and the revelation that the Father gave to Him.

In Ephesians Paul prayed that we would have the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. Think about that. He always had the Spirit of wisdom and revelation within Him; it was always there. And later Paul himself said to the Galatians, “I went up by revelation.” He had received revelation through the Spirit. So, the Spirit of wisdom and revelation was always in our Lord Jesus. He was always in unclouded communion with the Father, totally dependent on the Father. And as I said before, He said, “I can do nothing without the Father; what the Father does, I do.” That was His life.

Sinless Human Nature

He was without sin, we know that. He had a sinless human nature. What we see in Christ is human nature as God intended it to be. He had no consciousness of sin in Himself. He was without sin.

This is a quote from Scroggie, and it really touched my heart. I really got a glimpse of this perfect humanity, and as I read it, I hope the Lord will enlighten it in your heart like it did to me the day I read it.

Scroggie said this: "He never apologized for anything because He did not need to. He never said that He was sorry for anything He did or said." (Oh, how often I have to say, I am sorry.) He never admitted He made any mistakes because He did not. (But how many do we make?) He never showed any sign of regret or remorse for misused or lost opportunities. (Oh, brothers and sisters, there are opportunities we lose sometimes.) He never exhibited any consciousness of guilt. It was none there. (Brothers and sisters, isn't that wonderful? One day, we will experience that same thing, no consciousness of guilt. But it is necessary for us now because of the old man.) He never acknowledged sin in Himself and so He never asked for forgiveness. (We have to, don't we?) He never had an evil thought. He never felt the pain of an accusing conscience. He never manifested any trace of healed emotional scars nor memory of defeat."

Prevailed Over Satan in Temptation

This is the new humanity that lives in you. Think of that! When it says that we need to live by the life of Christ, how much we need to. You can never have it apart from Christ. We want to possess it in our old self-life, but God is not going to do that. You are only going to find it in Christ, but thank God, we are being transformed. Just as Adam was tested, our Lord Jesus's new humanity was tested. Remember when He was baptized, He was anointed by the Holy Spirit for His public ministry, and the Spirit led Him into the desert, and He was forty days there fasting before God in communion with the Father. He was preparing to meet Satan head on. And as you read the temptations of Satan, you see that he was trying to get Christ to act out of Himself, out of that self-life, to act for Himself, to be self-dependent, to be self-serving, and that was Adam's failure.

Satan tempted Christ when He was hungry. He said, "Make the bread." Christ would not do it unless the Father told Him to, He would not do it. He wanted Him to act in His own power to provide for Himself. He tempted Christ to prove that He was the Son of God by jumping off the peak, the pinnacle, and God would save Him if He was the Son of God. He would not do it, nothing out of Himself. He tempted Christ with all the kingdoms of the world, all its riches, power, fame, and fortune, and the Lord denied it all. He overcame it. It is so easy to see men grasping for power, grasping for fame, grasping for fortune. That is self-life. Christ, the second Man, the new humanity prevailed over Satan, and He was tempted in every way yet without sin.

Now I love Darby's assessment of this, and I am only interpreting what Darby said because when you read Darby, you have to read it numerous times to finally get it. I will read my interpretation of what our dear brother said.

“He had bound the strong man, and he went out in the power of the Holy Spirit into Galilee, and many received and responded to His word. He was spoiling the strong man’s goods.” I like that.

Loved His Own unto the End

Look at His humanity at the Lord’s supper. It was the Passover meal, and soon He Himself was going to become the Passover Lamb. And what did He say? “With great desire, I desire to be with you disciples.” He wanted to be with them. That was His heart at this crucial hour of His life. He wanted to be in fellowship. He got consolation from just being with them. Imagine that! And you know how cantankerous they were. They were arguing about who was going to be the first and to sit at His right hand and left hand. The Lord just humbled Himself and washed their feet. What humanity in our Lord Jesus Christ! He washes your feet, brothers, and sisters.

Prevailed Over Satan Who Has the Keys of Death

Look at His humanity in Gethsemane. The sufferings of Christ are in two parts: one in Gethsemane and the second on the cross.

For the first part, in the wilderness Satan had tempted the Lord to act on His own and for His self-benefit, and he failed. The Lord overcame. Now in Gethsemane, Satan who had the power of death and who kept man in bondage to death through the spirit of fear returns to directly confront Jesus (as the Son of Man) with the power of death. The second part of His sufferings is on the cross where He had to undergo God’s judgment upon Him on our behalf for our sins where he entered into death in payment for our sins.

Hebrews 2:14-15: “Forasmuch 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; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

That bondage had to be broken. Finally, it was accomplished on the cross, but He had to face Satan and that great power and oppression of all the satanic forces upon His soul. He takes Peter, James, and John, and again we see His humanity. He said, “I want you to stay here; I am going a little further, but I want you to pray.” Then He says, “My soul is overwhelmed.” Have you ever had your soul overwhelmed? There have been a few times in my life when I thought my soul was overwhelmed, but nothing anywhere near the extent of the pressure that our Lord was feeling. He said, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow unto death.” He felt the very power of death upon Him, and He wanted those three to pray for Him. He goes a little farther, and as He was before the Father, He faced Satan who pressed Jesus with the full force of the power of death, and that mighty spirit of the fear of death came up against Him, but He did not submit nor succumb. Brothers and sister, Satan was trying to crush His soul unto death in the garden so He would not fulfil God’s purpose for the redemption of man.

Also, as He was before the Father, He was having to consider what He would face when God judged Him and the sins of man on the cross of Calvary. It said that He was in deep anguish of soul, and this anguish was so profound that He began to sweat drops of blood. That battle was so

intense that the Father had to send angels to help Him through it. That is how powerful it was. We know the atmosphere was so oppressive that the disciples could not pray, and they fell asleep. Finally, He cried out, and this is His humanity: "Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from Me," and He is before the Father three times. And in triumph He finally said, "If it is not possible, Thy will be done." It was settled! Once again, He had overcome Satan and his greatest weapon. He had rebuffed the power of death and the spirit of the fear of death that came against Him. He overcame as a Man, not as deity.

Tremendous Suffering on the Cross, Yet Always Forgiving

Look at the cross in His humanity. The Lord suffered at the hands of man. What did He suffer? Violence, hostility, unrighteousness, desertion, denial, betrayal, forsaken. That was all a deep sorrow to the Lord's heart. He did not laugh it off; He did not just shake it off. It was a deep sorrow in His heart. And in His physical suffering, which a brother shared a few weeks ago out of Psalm 22:12-17. He said, "The bulls have compassed me about, strong bulls have surrounded me. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up. My tongue cleaves to my jaws, and you have brought me into the dust of death for dogs have compassed me. The assembly of the wicked have enclosed me. They pierced my hands and my feet. I see all my bones; they look and stare at me."

That was His physical suffering, but in His perfect humanity the Lord on the cross said, "Forgive them, they do not know what they are doing." I do not understand brothers and sisters, but that is what He said. This is the humanity of our Lord Jesus.

Then there is the thief on the cross. One reviled Him but the other one said, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Imagine that. Imagine the Lord in all His perfect humanity saying, "Here is one I need to reach out to in the midst of the cross." And He said, "You will be with Me in Paradise."

Brothers and sisters, we are all sitting here and I believe we are all believers, we will be with Him in Paradise. Praise the Lord! Or if He comes soon, we will meet Him at the throne, but this is our Lord Jesus.

In that ninth hour when darkness came across the whole earth, God could no longer look upon His Son who was taking on all the sins of mankind. And it says something that to this day I still do not understand. It says as He was going through that process, He became sin itself, and God's judgment fell on our Lord Jesus Christ. This must have been like battery acid to His soul. I cannot think of anything else any more horrible. God had turned away, and for the first time in all of eternity He experienced separation in His spirit from the Father and the Father's presence. He had never known anything in all of eternity except communion with His Father. Now as a Man He is deprived of that. Only one who has experienced such communion can know the depths of such suffering.

Darby put it like this. "The depths of the Lord's suffering could only be measured by the joy of unbroken communion He had known with the Father. We cannot grasp those depths, brothers and sisters, or the horrors that He faced in that condition. And in His humanity, He cried out, "My

God, My God, why has Thou forsaken Me?” That is His humanity. But thank God, He triumphed, and He finally cries out, “It is finished!” He declares it is finished. The work of redemption is done, and into Thy hands I commit My Spirit.

Sits Upon the Throne Today

Oh, brothers and sisters, His communion with the Father had been restored, and He would go into death, but He would be raised again. The story does not end at the cross. Praise the Lord! He rose from the dead, and He walked on this earth for forty days revealing Himself. He ascended back to the Father from the Mount of Olives and that Man, that humanity, sits upon the throne today at the right hand of the Father. He has double glory. He has the glory as the Son of God which He had before He became Man. And He also has the glory of the Son of Man, the perfect humanity, the glory that belongs to Him.

On the throne this Man was anointed, and that anointing oil fell on 120 believers at Pentecost, and they became amazingly quickened into the body of this new Man. So, this new Man is Christ the Head, and Christ His church, the body of Christ of which we are a part.

Brothers and sisters, I know I have not in any way adequately shared on the humanity of Christ. I do pray that in the coming days the Lord would really touch each one of us with the Spirit of revelation that we could see Him in His humanity, the perfect Man that is now in you and I and desires to be expressed in our lives. Christ is the last Adam, and the second Man. Pilate said, “Behold the Man.” This morning may we behold the Man.

Lord, we come to You, and we have to say that it is only by revelation that we can really see who You are, that perfect humanity that we now have a part in. Lord, how blessed we are! Lord Jesus, only You could bear our sins on Calvary’s cross. You were the spotless perfect Lamb, and You died for us that imperfect humanity. Lord, we just want to glory in Your work on Calvary’s cross and in what You have done. There is a Man in the glory. Amen.

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