



## The Book of Hebrews 2:18\_ The Helping Ministry of Jesus

March 3, 2024

### **Holy Text: Heb 2:18**

*Some of what we've learned so far:*

1. Hebrews is, in large part, an apologetic concerning the attributes of Christ: His Deity, Humanity, and other realities of His Person and Work. (Heb 1:1-3)
2. Hebrews was written to reassure and fortify Jewish believers, and convince Jewish doubters.
3. Christ is greater than angels! (Heb 1:4-14)
4. Take the Word of God seriously (give the more earnest heed, Heb 2:1)
5. Realize the lesser to greater ministry of angels in the administration of the Law (Heb 2:2)
6. Do not neglect the great salvation offered, not by angels, but by Christ (Heb 2:3)
7. Follow the Holy Words of the Apostles (Heb 2:4)
8. See the proper role of men (humanity) among the creation of God (Heb 2:5-8)
9. Be reminded of the Incarnation and Suffering of Christ for our sakes (Heb 2:9-10)
10. Note and understand the rightness of God's redemptive plan and His sovereign role in our salvation (Heb 2:10)
11. Know of Christ's sanctifying work among His "brethren!" (Heb 2:11-14)
12. The believer does not have to walk in the bondage of the fear of death! (Heb 2:15)
13. Christ is the Seed of Abraham! (Heb 2:16)
14. Christ is our Merciful and Faithful High Priest, who has made reconciliation (propitiation) for us! (Heb 2:17)

### **The Temptations of Jesus**

- *"For in that He Himself, hath suffered being tempted..." (Heb 2:18a)*
- Temptation (*peirazō*) can have two meanings: to test/prove and to incite to do evil.
- Was our LORD tempted? Yes! Tested and proved by the Spirit and incited by the devil.

**Hebrews 4:15 (KJV)** *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

- In other words, Christ faced the same fundamental temptations we face.
- Could Christ have sinned? Certainly not. He is the Holy Son of God! He hath not the nature to sin. He is completely and totally holy.

**2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV)** *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

**1 John 3:5 (KJV)** *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

- But it was necessary that He endure outward (never inward) temptation, both being proved and resisting the devil, for our sakes.
- There are only three basic types of temptation...

**1 John 2:15-17 (KJV)** *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the***

Father, but is of the world. **17** And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

- ...and we see Satan attempt to use them when Christ was in the wilderness:

**Matthew 4:1-11 (KJV)** Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. **2** And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. **3** And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. **4** But he answered and said, *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.* **5** Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, **6** And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. **7** Jesus said unto him, *It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.* **8** Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; **9** And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. **10** Then saith Jesus unto him, *Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.* **11** Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

- Quick Thoughts:

1. Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tempted. Point: Not all you go through is originated by the devil. It was the Spirit who ensured this time. (v.2)
2. His being tempted was necessary for Him to be our merciful and faithful High Priest! (2:17)
3. His temptation came during a time of intense bodily weakness. He was fasting for 40 days! (v.2)
4. Satan attempted to appeal to Jesus' **flesh**...His bodily hunger. Christ answered with the Word. (vv.3-4)
5. Satan attempted to appeal to Jesus' **nonexistent pride**, by daring Him to prove His deity. Christ answered with the Word. (vv.5-7)
6. Satan attempted to appeal to Jesus' **eyes** by showing him the "glory" of men's earthly kingdoms, over which he, the devil, has some control. (2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2) Christ answered with the Word! (vv.8-10)
7. All basic testing and tempting of believers all into these three areas. Our LORD faced, and defeated them all!

### **The Temptations of Man**

1. We, however, often fail our tests and yield to our temptations. We DO have a sin nature! This is our sad lot from the failure of our first parents in the Garden...

**Genesis 3:6 (KJV)** And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

2. As sinful, wander-prone and oft rebellious children, we need Christ's succour (help) daily!

3. **And beloved, Christ does help us in our weakness! He understands our plight! He is our faithful High Priest!**
4. And although our LORD faced the same kinds of temptations we face and was without sin, we face and fail such daily:
  - Temptations of the Flesh - Sins based on our carnal appetites: gluttony, fornication, adulteries.
  - Temptations of the Eyes - Sins that flow from our desire to consume: idolatry, covetousness, discontentment, theft, etc.
  - Temptations of the Pride of Life - Sins that manifest our desire to be seen, known, and celebrated *by* others or *over* others: envy, jealousy, lording over, wanting our own way, unforgiveness, unbiblical anger, plotting, gossip/slander, etc.
5. Note: these sins overlap. They are all called “lust of the flesh.”

**Galatians 5:16-25 (KJV)** *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance (quarreling), emulations (jealousy), wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

6. We are all, at times, tempted! Again, we have a sin nature...

**James 1:12-15 (KJV)** *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. 13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

7. Thankfully, there is a way of escape!

**1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (KJV)** *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make **a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear it.*

### **Succour?**

- “He is able to succour them that are tempted.” (Heb 2:18b)
- “Succour” (*boētheō* in Greek) essentially means *Help!* It means to “relive or come to the aid of.” The Webster 1828 gives a threefold definition:

1. To aid; to assist; to lend strength or means towards effecting a purpose; as, to help a man in his work; to help another in raising a building; to help one to pay his debts; to help the memory or the understanding.
  2. To assist; to succor; to lend means of deliverance; as, to help one in distress; to help one out of prison.
  3. To relieve; to cure, or to mitigate pain or disease.
- **Amen...and thank God! Did you know that God is our “helper?”**
  - In the OT, the Hebrew word for help/helper is often *êzer, ezrâh, or âzar*.

**Deuteronomy 33:29 (KJV)** *Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.*

**Psalms 28:6-7 (KJV)** *Blessed be the LORD, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. 7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.*

**Psalms 46:1 (KJV)** *To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

**Psalms 54:1-4 (KJV)** *To the chief Musician on Neginoth, Maschil, A Psalm of David, when the Ziphims came and said to Saul, Doth not David hide himself with us? Save me, O God, by thy name, and judge me by thy strength. 2 Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. 3 For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul: they have not set God before them. Selah. 4 Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul.*

**Psalms 121:1-8 (KJV)** *A Song of degrees. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. 2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. 3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. 4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. 6 The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. 7 The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. 8 The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.*

**Psalms 146:5-6 (KJV)** *Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God: 6 Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever:*

**Hosea 13:9 (KJV)** *O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.*

Our helper indeed...Hallelujah!

**Hebrews 13:5-6 (KJV)** *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, **The Lord is my helper**, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

## **The Succour (Helping Ministry) of Jesus**

- Our Text says that Jesus *succours* or *helps* us.

**Hebrews 2:18 (KJV)** *For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*

- And we need His help so desperately! He told His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane:

**Matthew 26:41 (KJV)** *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

- Jesus knows our hearts. He knows how weak we are. He knows that despite our bold talk (Peter anyone? Luke 22:33-34), that we will stumble and fall. **So our Savior kindly helps us. He does this in many ways.**

1. First, Jesus has poured out His great love upon us!

**John 15:10-13 (KJV)** *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

- **What a help to know that you are loved by God! In fact...**

- **Romans 8:35-39 (KJV)** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

2. Jesus saves, heals, and delivers us!

**Luke 4:18-19 (KJV)** *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

**John 5:24-25 (KJV)** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. 25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.*

- **Glory to God! Hallelujah! Is there a greater help to our holy and joyful living than the blessed assurance of our salvation?**

3. Jesus forgives and cleanses us!

**1 John 1:7-9 (KJV)** *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. **8** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**Ephesians 4:32 (KJV)** *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

- **What an incredible help to know that as you face the tribulations of life, Christ has forgiven you and washed you in His blood!**

4. Jesus comforts us!

**Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV)** *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

**John 6:37 (KJV)** *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

**Matthew 5:4 (KJV)** *Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

- **The comfort of Christ's help is available for you...NOW. He is here...NOW...to give you rest. NOW.**

5. Jesus gives us His Spirit!

**John 14:15-17 (KJV)** *If ye love me, keep my commandments. **16** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; **17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

**John 14:26 (KJV)** *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

**John 15:26 (KJV)** *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

- **Poured out at Pentecost (Acts 2), the Comforter (*Paraklētōs*...One who is called along side to help!) lives in you! You are never alone. He is always with you to correct, guide, and strengthen you!**

6. Jesus teaches us!

**1 John 2:27 (KJV)** *But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*

- **What a comfort and help to know that our LORD personally instructs us and confirms the truth of Scripture by His Spirit! (1 Cor 2:13-16)**

7. Jesus prays for us!

**John 17:16-20 (KJV)** *They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. 18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. 20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

**Hebrews 7:25 (KJV)** *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

- **Oh beloved, be encouraged! Be strong! Christ has prayed and is praying for you! There are discussions in heaven concerning you! You are in the thoughts of God—in the mind of the King—and He has declared a purpose for you! Rejoice!**

8. Jesus corrects and chastens us!

**Hebrews 12:6-7 (KJV)** *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

**Hebrews 12:11 (KJV)** *Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

- **Even His correction and chastening are helps! And such flows from the love of God!**

9. Jesus places us in His Church!

**Matthew 16:18-19 (KJV)** *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

- **Christ has put you in what He is building: His Church. He has given gifts to every true local church for your edification, unity, knowledge and maturity! (Eph 4:11-16)**

10. Jesus enables us to Persevere!

**John 15:4-5 (KJV)** *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

- Some of you may recall our time in Matthew 14:27: **“Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid!”** Our LORD promises to abide in us as we cling to Him. He causes us to bear fruit as we realize and embrace our dependence upon Him. And this friends, is the key to real perseverance: His strength, not our own! (2 Cor 12:9)

**Final Encouragement from A.W. Pink**

“Whatever your circumstances, the succouring Savior is all-sufficient and enters sympathetically into your condition. He knew what it was to be weary (John 4:6) and exhausted (Mark 4:36-38).

He knew what it was to suffer hunger and thirst. Are you homeless? He had not a place to lay His head. Are you in straitened circumstances? He was cradled in a manger. Are you grief-stricken? He was the Man of sorrows. Are you misunderstood by fellow believers? So was He by His own disciples. Whatever your lot, He can enter fully into it. He experienced all the miseries of mankind, and has not forgotten them. Are you assailed by Satan? So was He. Do blasphemous thoughts at times torment your mind? The devil tempted Him idolatrously to worship him. Are you in such desperation as to think of making an end of yourself? Satan challenged Him to cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple. He "was in all points tempted like as we are, sin excepted."

Angels may pity, but they can have no fellow feeling. But Christ's compassion (to suffer with) moves Him to succor. In some instances He does so *before* the temptation comes, and in a variety of ways.

He succours *under* temptation; in some cases by the powerful application of a precept or promise, which as a cable holds the heart fast amid the storm; by a providential interposition which prevents our executing the evil intention, or by removing the temptation itself; by giving us to prove the sufficiency of His grace (2 Cor. 1:2). He succours *after* temptation, by giving us a spirit of contrition (Luke 22:61-62), moving us to confess our sins. As angels ministered to Him after His conflict with Satan, so He ministers to us.

Then no matter how dire your situation or acute your suffering, apply to Christ for relief and deliverance, and count upon His help. It is when the child is most ill that the mother comes and sits beside it (Isa. 66:13)."<sup>1</sup>

Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> The Attributes of God, A.W. Pink. [https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/attributes\\_online.html](https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/attributes_online.html)