**Hebrews 2:9–11** 9But we look to Jesus (the one who was made lower than the angels for a little while, so that by God’s grace he might taste death for everyone), now crowned with glory and honor, because he suffered death. 10Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. 11For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers.

That last line is a real eye catcher! I mean what I say. Now I realize that there would be some who would just look at that line and wail and moan about how the Bible is nothing more than a sexist, male dominated work that ignores and shames the women of the world. If you believe that I will tell you that you are wrong and I will tell you why.

The last line says, **“For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers.”** This passage is not meant to push aside anyone. This passage is written in 1st Century Greek in the common way of all languages. In other words, there was not a first century Greek person who ever thought that this line was meant to exclude women or children or anyone. In truth, in the way the language developed and was written, this phrase actually means that every single human being who believes in Jesus is a part of the family of Jesus. But they didn’t write out: “every single human being who believes in Jesus is a part of the family of Jesus. You are his brother, sister, mother, father, nephew, niece, aunt, uncle, grandpa, grandma and a few other kinds of family members that you must surely think about.” They wrote, properly, according to the rules of language at that time: **“He is not ashamed to call them brothers.”** By the way, even in today’s choked language atmosphere we still don’t write long and drawn out definition sentences but have short words and phrases to get the point across. Nope, nothing wrong with this sentence.

Not only is there nothing wrong with this sentence, there is everything right with this sentence. We are being told we are of the family of God. We are being told we belong to God, that we are the children of God with the wonder and marvel of all that it means to be a child of God. All of this because Jesus is our brother. All of this because Jesus has made us his brothers and sisters who, one and all, belong to the Father and his eternal and heavenly kingdom. But the real wonder of this section is the fact that it doesn’t in any way leave how this happened up to us to figure out, but rather tells us clearly how this all happened. Our theme for today: **GOD, OUR FATHER.**

You have to love how our section starts out. It directs us right to the heart and core of what we are. It says, **“But we look to Jesus.”** You want to talk relationship with God, look to Jesus. You want to talk eternal life and salvation, look to Jesus. You want to talk about the sureness, comfort and hope of being a child of God, look to Jesus. Simple enough. Yet I sometimes shake my head when I tune into so many other popular preachers and teachers of this world and I realize their message is about us, what we do, how we do it and on and on. And most often they throw in the name of Jesus but really don’t talk about what Jesus has done. The message is about my life, my desire, my works and my goodness. That is not what we find here. You want to talk salvation, look to Jesus.

Now the author here does give clarifying words and information. So in talking about Jesus he makes this additional statement, **“The one who was made lower than the angles for a little while, so that by God’s grace he might taste death for everyone.”** With these words and the following words there is no doubt as to who and what Jesus is.

Jesus is the one who came down from heaven. Jesus is the Son of God who humbled himself and became a man, that is, Jesus left his exalted, all powerful, eternal position of the God-head to take on human flesh and blood. That’s what is meant when it is said he was made lower than the angels. Angels are eternal and spiritual beings who were created by God to serve man. By becoming a man, Jesus, in fact, took a lower position than the angels. Jesus did that for one reason…to taste death for everyone!

I want you to understand that the entire Bible, from beginning to end, clearly testifies and teaches that the whole purpose of the Christ is to take care of the problem of sin and with that sin, death and damnation. By referencing one part of what Jesus did we are being reminded of the whole of what Jesus did. He lived perfectly. He died. He went to the cross to suffer and die in order to pay for the sins of all of mankind. Yep, our atoning sacrifice. Our Passover Lamb. The servant of the Lord who was stricken, smitten and afflicted, who was crushed for our guilt of sins and who by his wounds healed us. That’s Jesus. And we know all of this is true because God gave us the one sign that couldn’t be missed, Jesus would die and come back to life. That is what our next line tells us.

Our next line further describes Jesus. **“Now crowned with glory and honor, because he suffered death.”** He is crowned because of the exaltation, because he was raised from the dead, actually, truly and physically raised from the dead. Then Jesus ascended into heaven. Now Jesus, sits at the right hand of God because he has been placed over all things by God the Father. All of this wrapped up in the redemptive work of Jesus.

By the way, if you don’t believe Jesus died for sins or went to the cross to suffer the pangs of hell for our souls, then what is the point of the Jesus you proclaim? This verse makes it clear that the redemptive work of Jesus was his purpose, cause and desire for the world. For someone to deny this work of Jesus is a person who has abandoned and deserted the real Jesus for false and wicked idols. Jesus is given glory and honor because he suffered death and that glory and honor is realized in the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus.

Now here is the interesting part. Our next line is going to reemphasize this work and wonder of Jesus! It’s as if our God, grasping the foolishness of those who would reject the Lord, saw what they would try to do. So God gives this line: **“Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings.”**

In a nutshell here is what that sentence says. *God the Father, the creator of all, the sustainer of all, the cause and power of all things, in his desire to save the souls of mankind, sent Jesus, the author of salvation, to fulfill and accomplish that salvation through suffering, namely through his suffering and death on the cross.* The author, the Holy Spirit, repeats the previous thought in slightly different words to make sure you don’t miss any exciting, wonderful and eternal truth of Jesus. Jesus is our Savior from sin.

Did you hear in this line what Jesus is called? He is called **“the author of their salvation.”** What a revelation. Jesus, with his Father, planned and plotted the salvation of the world. More pointedly, Jesus is the author, the source, the originator of this plan. What happened to Jesus is no mistake. It wasn’t happenstance and bad luck, it wasn’t coincidence and make believe. What happened to Jesus was planned and carried out by the God head for the eternal salvation of all souls. Jesus is the promoter, the originator of the plan! Wow. Talk about love. “I propose that I go and I pay the price for all of the sins of the world that we might save the souls of men!” That’s Jesus. That’s our Savior!

Then the last verse of utter joy to contemplate. **“For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers.”**

Break this wonderful truth down. **“He who sanctifies.”** That is Jesus. To sanctify means to be made holy. Jesus in living the perfect life and then being the perfect atonement price for sins has declared that we are made holy. His power makes holy. In other words, the holiness of Jesus, by grace through faith, is going to become ours. God the Father will clothe us with Jesus righteousness. That’s the promise of Jesus. That again is the reason for Jesus, to atone for our sins, to serve as our substitute in hell and in that wonder of loving justice to offer and grant all believers the gift of the forgiveness of sins. The result? Your sins are wiped clean. Your sins no longer count against you. You, in Jesus, are counted holy and perfect before God. That is what Jesus came to do.

Next line, **“and those who are being sanctified.”** Here is the word sanctified in its full use. In this use it means we are called out of unbelief to faith. God, in Jesus, calls us to faith. He grants us the wonder of Jesus, the message of forgiveness in Jesus the very key of eternal life and salvation. But this word is also is a passive voice. That means we are being worked on. Not only are we called to faith, but the Holy Spirit in Jesus continues to work in us to lead us to hate sin and desire lives pleasing to God. We are being motivated to do good, to follow Jesus, to hear Jesus, to walk as Jesus, to work at pleasing the Father as did Jesus. Here is how you can determine if your faith is genuine or not. Are you moved to have Jesus in your life? Are all things good and godly there, motivating, helping, focusing, pushing…what I am getting at is you can’t claim faith without the works of faith. Faith without works is dead. You can’t be godless and a believer. You can’t claim to follow without first hearing. You can’t claim to hear unless you are regularly exposing yourself to the means of Grace. This wonderful phrase not only tells us what Jesus has done but what Jesus continues to do for us.

What he does is make it so we **“all have one Father.”** Yep, we become a part of God. We are his children. In every way we are his children. Our Perfect and holy Father pours out his love, compassion, care and grace on us. Our perfect and holy Father guides and directs our lives for our eternal good and salvation.

And that last very beautiful phrase: **“He is not ashamed to call them brothers.”** Now I pray that what I am going to say is very true in your lives. I am a part of a human family. As such I have a Dad still living and three sisters who are still living. I treasure them dearly. Those are the four people of this world who know me best and most. All of our lives we have known each other and shared a life together in so many different ways. I would not be who I am without them and what they have meant for me. They are sisters and father! They are family! And now we are being told that Jesus and the Father are also family.

Jesus is my brother. A brother who has impact and influence. A brother who has taught about love and care, compassion and mercy. A brother who walks with me, who often holds my hand in that walk but in greater truth, a brother who, more than I care to admit, supports and carries me in life. That’s Jesus. The Savior Jesus. The God-man Jesus. The perfect brother and Savior. Unlike our earthly siblings who are sinners and who can forget the amazing gift we have in each other, Jesus never forgets, never stumbles, never fails to love and never fails to rescue my wretched soul. It is the same for you. Jesus is your perfect and holy brother.

The other day in mid-week Bible class we looked at a line in Revelation, speaking of the difficulties we can expect as believers. Here is the line describing what Satan is going to do: **“he went away to make war against the rest of her children—those who keep the commandments of God and who hold on to the testimony about Jesus.”** We are the targets of Satan. In this section, the Holy Christian Church is spoken of as a mother who has given birth to our Savior Jesus. When Satan could not destroy Jesus and could not destroy the Holy Christian Church, he then turns his attention to us. I loved how it describes us. **“the rest of her children.”** If you follow all that is said in this section your grasp it is telling us we are the brothers and sisters of Jesus. What I also like about this verse is that it also tells us we are the children of God and the children of the church. For those of you who think you can live without church and be a child of God, not so. They go hand in hand. And notice that as brothers and sisters we are **“those who keep the commandments of God and who hold on to the testimony about Jesus.”** In other words, **“we look to Jesus!”** God is our Father!

I pray you grasp the total joy of this section of God’s Word. I hope you notice how those who put this pericope together, chose readings that highlighted and emphasized this wonder of family that God has given. And who could miss the importance of children in our Gospel reading for today! You are God’s child in Jesus. Thank you Jesus. Amen.