



Sunday, November 29, 2020  
Pastor Keith Sovo

## **Intro to Hebrews 2:14-15**

Death is one of those things that no one wants to talk about but, to some degree or another, is on everyone's mind. The Bible actually has a great deal to say about death—the reasons it exists, who holds the power of it, what it means for us who are subject to it, and how we may overcome through the sacrifice of Jesus. All of this only amplifies the fact that the Bible is the most relevant book in all the world. Nothing speaks more directly to our human experience than a reality check and a message of hope that comes from acknowledging not only death itself, but Christ's victory over death.

Death is at the very center of the Bible's storyline. The climax of the entire book is the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. The crucifixion was the means by which Jesus subjected Himself to death (even though He was not under the curse of death because of sin). The resurrection was the means by which He conquered death (not only for Himself, but for all who would follow Him in faith and obedience). So, as we enter this Christmas season, let us remember *why* Jesus chose to be born in Bethlehem—not just so that we would learn to treat each other better, but to conquer our greatest enemy and bring us to glory!

### **Context**

The author of Hebrews makes it clear from the beginning that Jesus is greater than anything else in the course of redemptive history. Jesus is unique. Part of His unique greatness lies in the fact that He chose to become a man so that He could die, so that God's wrath could be satisfied, and He could bring us back into a right relationship with God. In the course of carrying out this work, Jesus revealed to us not only the ultimate way of salvation through His death and resurrection, but also revealed the meaning of true greatness, as one who would enter our mess in order to save us.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Hebrews 2:10-18

“From Christmas to Calvary”

Christmas: Why did He come?

- He identifies with us (v. 10-11)
  
- He took on flesh and blood (v. 14)

Calvary: Why did He die?

- To destroy the one who had the power of death (v. 14)
  
- To deliver those who were enslaved to the fear of death (v. 15)

## Discuss

- 1) What are some common ways, apart from Scripture, that people in our culture try to explain death or comfort people who are mourning the death of a loved one?
- 2) When you think about death, what typically comes to mind?
- 3) How does knowing that Jesus came to die change the way you think about Christmas?
- 4) What should our proper response to God be for destroying the power of death and delivering us from slavery to the fear of death?
- 5) How can you encourage someone who is struggling right now (could be a fear of death, could just be the circumstances) in light of this passage?