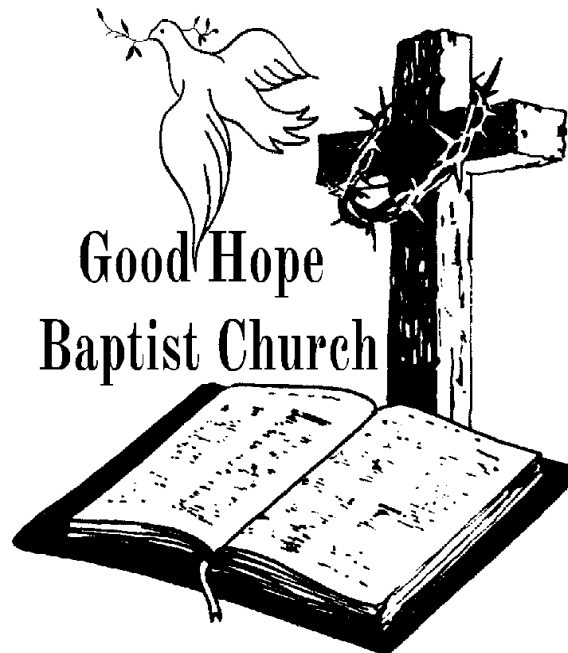


We See Jesus

Hebrews 2:9



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FOCAL Hebrews 2:9 ^{KJV} But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

"But we SEE Jesus ..." The word "see" in the English language is used in a variety of ways. It can be used for *presence*, as in "Don't do anything until you SEE me". It can be used to *acknowledge* something, as in "I SEE by your resume' you graduated from the University of North Carolina". It can be used for *understanding* or *agreement*, as in "I SEE what you are saying". It can be used for *observation*, as in "I watched her to SEE what she would do." It can be used for *a desire for intimacy*, as in "I long to SEE you again". It can also refer to the *basic act of seeing*, as in "I've made an appointment to SEE the you".

As the word is in English, so it is in the Scripture. When the Bible says "We SEE Jesus" this is an expression that goes beyond the basic act of seeing. We who believe have had a supernatural encounter with God. We heard His glorious Gospel of salvation:

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 ^{NIV} Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one

abnormally born.

The Gospel, when it was first preached in the New Testament, was preached by people who literally SAW the Lord Jesus Christ. They saw Jesus **die for our sins according to the Scriptures**. He died a literal, terrible death. His Body was embalmed according to the methods of that day. People handled Him. The Centurion **drove a spear into His side, and out poured Blood and Water (John 19:34)**. If you've ever watched shows like CSI you know that the red blood cells begin to separate from the water in the body after death, so here we see a proof that Jesus literally died. **He died according to the Scriptures, fulfilling numerous prophecies.**

Isaiah 53:5^{NIV} ..He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Jesus was buried after embalming, sealed in an airtight tomb. People saw this. They handled His broken body. They laid Him on the stone bench in that borrowed cave, and watched the stone roll in place. **Three days later Jesus walked out of that tomb, just as He promised.** He said:

Matthew 12:40^{NIV} For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jesus walked out of that tomb, and the soldiers that failed

to guard the tomb were *bribed by the Pharisees* to say **"His disciples came during the night and stole Him away while we were asleep"**. The obvious question would be *if you were asleep, how could you know?* Oh, what a clumsy lie! But the devil is a clumsy liar, and so are his useful idiots. Jesus walked out of that tomb, but then He was **literally seen by over 500 people, to include His stepbrother James, the Apostles, and the Apostle Paul**. These people not only SAW Him with their eyes, SAW Him ascend into Heaven (**Acts 1:9**) but they *died professing that what they saw was true*. They SAW Jesus.

We Who Believe SEE Jesus as well. I doubt there is anyone in this room who has literally SEEN Jesus as the original disciples SAW Jesus, but we who believe have SEEN Him by faith.

1. We SEE That We Must Have A Savior

I could tell you what the Bible says about man, and you might or might not agree with what I tell you. For instance, I could tell you that the Bible says that God made man, and put man in charge of everything. We read:

Context Hebrews 2:6-7^{KJV} What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? 7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honor, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

That's what God did when He made our forefather Adam.

God made everything, and then "set Adam over the works of His - God's - hands". The Book of Genesis tells us in **Genesis 2:19** that:

"the Lord God made all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air, and brought them to Adam to SEE WHAT HE WOULD NAME THEM"

God made creation, made man, and then put man in charge of everything. But man blew it! We read in our context:

Context Hebrews 2:8 Thou {O God} hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that {God} put all in subjection under {Adam}, he left nothing [that is] not put under him. **But now we see not yet all things put under him.**

Though Adam was placed in charge of everything, he sold out to Satan, following him rather than following God. That's why the text says **"But NOW we see not yet all things put under him."** Let me explain this by an example.

Illustrate The other day I was coming from the local Post Office, driving on my side of the road (the right, if you're confused), not far from the entrance. A man drove in the entrance on MY RIGHT SIDE, and on his left. I saw him coming, so I just stopped where I was and waited. He drove right up to me and stopped in my lane, and then looked at my MAD, signaling that I needed to get out of the way! I didn't move. He backed up, gunned into his right lane (which is where he should have been

in the first place), and glared at me as he passed by.

That is so indicative of our world today! There is such a thing as absolute right and absolute wrong, and yet people refuse to acknowledge this. All things were placed under our control by God - but man has lost control. What do you see in the world today?

A broken government that cannot seem to right itself. Out of control schools, where metal detectors are posted at every door.

Widespread unemployment, and continual loss of industry.

A complete breakdown of moral values.

Man has fallen and cannot get up on his own. The Bible tells us that **Adam introduced death into the world by his act of disobedience. His children - that's us - are all sinners. We know we're sinners because (a) we sin and (b) we die. (Romans 5:12).** What is the solution to what ails us?

Context Hebrews 2:9 ^{KJV} But **we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.**

We who believe see Jesus. We SEE Him in the sense that we understand the necessity for what He did. Because Adam fell into sin, we are sinners. Because Adam could not pay for his sin while a sinner, Someone who was sinless had to do so. **We see Jesus Who was made a little lower than the angels, just as we are a**

little lower than the angels. Jesus was made lower than the angels so that He by the grace of God could taste death for every man. He took our penalty upon Himself.

Illustrate In the ancient city of Venice there was a bridge called "**The Bridge of Sighs.**" At one end of the bridge there was a *courtroom*; at the other end there was a *dungeon*. Above the door to the dungeon were the words, "**Abandon hope all ye that enter herein**". Imagine being convicted in that courtroom, and sentenced to walk to that dungeon. As you walk across the bridge you take one last long look at the long bridge behind you, and all your loved ones standing there that you will never see again. How terrible! This life is like that bridge, and every person is heading toward a dungeon called "**The Lake of Fire**". I was headed down that bridge one day when Someone came to me with a pardon. With His nail scarred hands He reached out and said, "**Stop where you're going. Take this, and follow Me!**" Blessed be the Name of Jesus Christ, for He is the Savior of His people.

2 Corinthians 5:21 ^{KJV} For {God the Father} hath made {Jesus} to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Saved by faith in Him the Scripture says that:

Context Hebrews 2:11 ^{KJV} For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified [are] all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Jesus Christ is the "**One that sanctifies or sets apart**". When we believe in Him we are "**set apart**" in the eyes of God. No more are we the fallen children of Adam, but we are:

Galatians 3:26 ^{KJV} For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

The glorious statement in Hebrews is this: "**Jesus is NOT ASHAMED to call us *brothers***". Saved by the Lord Jesus Christ we are part of His family!

2. We Who Believe SEE The Savior Is With Us

As we get older, we go through a number of changes. I heard a cute poem that said:

**My face in the mirror
Isn't wrinkled or drawn.
My house isn't dirty,
The cobwebs are gone.
My garden looks lovely
And so does my lawn.
I think I might never
Put my glasses back on.**

As we age, we lose a few things like our 20/20 vision. But one thing the Christian never loses is the Presence of the Lord Jesus Christ!

When trials come we do not doubt our Savior and believe in the trial. We believe in our Savior in spite of the trial! As part of His family He stays with us!

We SEE Him.

Our text states:

Focal Hebrews 2:9 ^{KJV} But we SEE Jesus

not "we've SEEN Jesus", nor even "we WILL SEE Jesus". He is always with us, always with His people. Sometimes we're tempted to ask, "**How can the Lord be in the situation I'm in?**" The Lord is there, working behind the scenes.

1 **The Lord was with John.** The Apostle John loved Jesus very much, and Jesus loved him. John defined his life by the love of Christ. When he wrote the Gospel that bears his name he called himself "**the one whom Jesus loved**" (**John 13:23; 20:2; 21:7; 21:20**). Though the other disciples hid themselves during Christ's crucifixion, **John stood openly by Jesus and His mother Mary (John 19:26)**. Following His resurrection Jesus stood on the shore and called out to *seven* of the disciples as they fished in the *sea of Tiberias*. Though Peter jumped in the water and swam to shore to see Jesus, it was John who recognized Jesus first: "**It is the Lord**" (**John 21:7**). He was much loved by Jesus, and John very much loved Jesus.

Following the Lord's ascension into Heaven John went to Ephesus. There he was captured, tortured, and exiled to an Island called **Patmos by the Roman emperor Domitian**. While suffering from extreme cold, hunger, and isolation the Lord Jesus came to him. The Scripture

says:

Revelation 1:17-18 ^{KJV} And when I saw {the Lord Jesus}, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has the keys to hell and death, the duration of this life and entrance into the next life. He who owns the keys controls the situation. We who believe **see Jesus!** We know that He is in control, no matter what our situation might be.

Of all the Apostles, John alone died - not by martyrdom - but of old age. He loved the Lord, stood with the Lord, and kept on seeing Jesus. Because of that the Lord blessed his life, and he served his Savior for many, many years!

2 **The Lord was with Stephen.** Stephen is one of my favorite New Testament examples. This man was the *first person* called to be a Deacon in the early Church. The Bible says that Stephen was "**a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit**". He walked with the Lord Jesus. He ministered faithfully as a Deacon, but he didn't stop there. The Bible says that Stephen, "**full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people**" (**Acts 6:8**).

As Stephen grew in faith and in love of the Lord, those who hated Jesus but loved power began to attack

Stephen and his ministry. The Bible says:

Acts 6:10 ^{KJV} **And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which {Stephen} spake.**

Stephen saw Jesus! As the Psalmist said:

Psalms 16:8-9 ^{KJV} **I have set the LORD always before me: because [he is] at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.**

Stephen's enemies increased in power. They got together with others who made up lies about him, saying "**We have heard Stephen curse the Prophet Moses and God!**" (Acts 6:11). They kept on until they got a mob going. The Bible says that this faithful Deacon, loved of God and loving Jesus, stood accused of the most terrible things.

Acts 6:12-14 ^{KJV} **And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council, And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.**

What did they see when this crowd looked at Stephen? Did they see him cowering, slobbering, frightened for his life? No, but the Bible says:

Acts 6:15 ^{KJV} **And all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.**

There is no better place to hide than in the arms of the Lord Jesus! The way to be able to stand in the blistering light of self righteous and godless condemnation is to stand in the shadow of your Lord and Savior! Christ stands with His people. **We see Jesus.** We who are His need to rest in Him, in His truth, in His Word, and in His presence. That's what Stephen did - he rested in Christ. When the High Priest asked Stephen, "**Are these things so?**" (Acts 7:1), Stephen did not waste time defending himself against any charges. Instead **Stephen saw Jesus.** He took this as an opportunity to preach the Gospel to them men gathered against him.

Stephen didn't tone down his message. He forgot that his life was on the line, and focused on telling those men about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Focal **Hebrews 2:9** ^{KJV} **But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.**

The men wouldn't hear. The Bible says that they **gnashed on Stephen with their teeth** (Acts 7:54). How did Stephen respond?

Acts 7:55-56 ^{KJV} **But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,**

And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

ILLUSTRATE I have seen in my lifetime entertainers who, having performed well for their audience, received a "standing ovation". I remember the late **Danny Thomas** once saying how much he as an entertainer **desired to be wanted by the audience, and how he loved that applause.** I can only imagine such a thing. But I would think, better than all that, would be a *standing ovation from the Lord Jesus Christ.* That's what Stephen saw as he was stoned to death. As Stephen died seeing Jesus he said:

Acts 7:59-60 KJV.... Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

3 I believe that the Lord was with Paul because of **Stephen.** One of the greatest Apostles of the Scripture was the Apostle Paul. He was one of the witnesses who saw Stephen stoned to death (**Acts 7:58**). Though the Bible does not say so, I personally believe that it was the witness of Stephen that led Paul to be saved (**read Acts 8:1-3**). Regardless as to whether you believe this or not, it is a fact that **Paul saw the Lord Jesus on the Damascus Road.** After the Lord struck him down on the Damascus Road He sent a disciple by the name of *Ananias* to Paul. The Lord said that Paul was:

Acts 9:15-16 KJV... chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children

of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Paul saw Jesus - and Paul was called to a life of suffering. The Lord said that Paul would **suffer great things for God's Name sake.** When Paul heard this he didn't despair. In fact, the Scripture says:

Acts 9:20 KJV And straightway {Paul} preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

He immediately started doing what God called him to do. Though he suffered greatly in his ministry for Jesus, **Paul saw Jesus. He said:**

2 Timothy 4:16-17 NIV ... no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth.

The Apostle kept his eyes on Jesus Christ. He knew that - standing in uncertain times and preaching among uncertain people - that his gaze must be on the Lord. Paul told the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 2:2-5 KJV I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of

power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Paul did not rely on his abilities, nor the abilities of others. He relied on the Lord Jesus Christ. **Paul saw Jesus.**

We are in increasingly difficult times in America today. We must - like John, Stephen, and Paul, keep our eyes on the Lord Jesus. The devil will have us get our eyes off of Jesus. That's what he did with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He approached them with guile, saying "**Hath God really said?**" (**Genesis 3:1**). Once the devil got Adam and Eve to question what God said and God's intentions, it wasn't long before sin and death became their way of life.

The Christian way of life is a very simple way of life. **We see Jesus.** We do what He did. We love as He loved. We act as He acted. He heed His Word and obey His command.

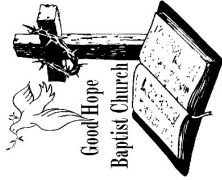
We find our rest in His Word, in doing what He says no matter what may come. When trials come, look for Jesus! Trials, like fire, turn the faithless toward faith. They temper the Christian, and cause the pretender to lose his temper. Trials prove whether what we have believed is of God or of Satan. Trials are precious to God's precious, but putrid to Satan's people.

You are the TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit, not the HOTEL of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament God had a Temple for His people. In the New Testament

God's people ARE His Temple.

Valleys in life bring us to the place where we experience God the clearest and the closest. You do not get to practical righteousness without first going through the Valleys of life with God. We go through these Valleys, through these struggles, through these difficult times by holding God's hand something we rarely do on the mountain top. Why do the Valleys come? To focus us on God. To pack down our foundation so that God can build up our lives.

May God touch your hearts with His Word!



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