

Jesus died to conquer Satan and free us from the fear of death

Last Week

Jesus, our big brother, cut a path to the kingdom for us

This Week

Jesus, our big brother, came to destroy the devil and free us from bondage

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Hebrews 2:14-15

Vs. 14

Flesh and blood:

1. Remember the Gnostics?
 - The author is taking a **swipe** at their beliefs.
 - They believed that flesh and blood are evil; therefore, Jesus was only **spirit**, not flesh.
2. Jesus became flesh and blood, proving that our **bodies** are the creation and gift of God.

Shared humanity

1. Jesus had every intention to die, since death is a part of our **human** experience.
2. His death was not an accident or tragedy, but a part of the **plan** all along.

Destroyed him who holds the power of death...

1. Jesus doesn't destroy death, though that is what we might like him to have done.
 - Death is still a part of the human experience.
 - Jesus, instead, makes the **effects** of death null and void:
2. No longer does death bring separation from God.
 - Jesus takes death, and turns a defeat into a **victory**: he uses something evil for his own purposes. (Christmas. Luther: *Why should the devil have all the good music?*)
 - We still die; however, God is now the one who holds the power over our death.

...the devil

1. Evil is personified in a **being** called the devil.
2. **My Confession**: In my times of doubt, sometimes the only reason why I believe in God is because the evidence of the devil and evil are so evident.

Vs. 15

Free us from slavery to fear of death

1. Remember: the devil no longer holds the power of death.
 - God holds the power over death.
 - Do you trust God to make your death **meaningful**?
2. Fear prevents us from being **great**
 - To what do we allow ourselves to be bound?

“The fear of death is more to be dreaded than death itself.” Publilius Syrus (100 BC) (a Syrian, brought as a slave to Italy. His master educated him and freed him. All that is left of his writings is a book called the Sentences, which is kind of like the book of Proverbs: short pithy sayings)

“The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.” Mark Twain

“All men die. Not all men live.” Mel Gibson as William Wallace in Braveheart

“Faith is a living and unshakable confidence, a belief in the grace of God so assured that a man would die a thousand deaths for its sake” Martin Luther

You are welcome to use the following study as a part of your family or small group bible study this week.

Weekly Bible Study Re-read Hebrews 2:14-15

1. What do you believe happens to us when we die?
2. Is there anything about death that causes you to fear? If so, what
3. Who is the devil? Does the devil have any control over our lives?
4. What other things enslave us?