

The Perfect Savior

Hebrews 2 Verse by Verse

Introduction

Pay Attention
2:1-4

Jesus
the Man
2:5-9

Jesus the
High Priest
2:10-18

Conclusions



Introduction

- In the midst of our deepest troubles, it is understandable to think that God is distant.
- It is *understandable*, but incorrect.
- In fact, God has done all that is necessary to come close to us - to bridge whatever gap there was between us because of our sin.
- Jesus – God the Son – crossed over to our side to lead us back over to His side.
- That's just one reason the Lord Jesus Christ is exactly the Savior that we need.

Background

Previously in
Hebrews

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From Tony
Evans

- The audience was Jewish Christians who are now facing persecution, whether from fellow Jews or from their pagan neighbors.
- Their big question would be:
- **Is it really worth it to follow this Jesus?**
- Hebrews is written as a letter, but the style is that of a sermon, maybe 45 minutes in length.
- Considered in that light, it reads like other sermons, both from the early church and from the synagogue of that day.

Hebrews is often considered one of the most difficult books in the New Testament to interpret, second only to Revelation. That's because Hebrews is very dependent on the Old Testament for much of what the author has to say to Jewish Christians who have come upon hard times and are considering bailing out on their Christian commitment to return to Judaism.



Tony Evans, Bible Teacher
and Commentator

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- In **Hebrews 1**, the author begins answering the dual question, "**Who is Jesus - and why should we bother to follow him?**"
- His goal is to show that Jesus Christ is the supreme revelation of God.
- He is greater than the angels, for starters.
- And he is greater than any other way that God had previously chosen to reveal himself to our fallen human race.

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Pay Attention 2:1-4

- If Jesus is greater than the angels who took part in revealing the Old Testament, how dare we ignore his message?
- Like Aslan in the *Narnia* series, Jesus is "not a tame lion."
- He is perfectly good, but he is not "safe."
- If we do not pay much closer attention ...
- If we neglect such a great salvation ...
- How shall we escape?

The Warning
Passages

The Danger
of Drifting

Those Who
Heard

Matthew
11:20-24

The Warning Passages

The Five Passages

Five Warning Passages in Hebrews

- Without the Warnings - A Theological Treatise
- With the Warnings - A Sermon

Reading the Letter

- Without Warnings - To Clearly Follow the Arguments
- Warnings Alone - To Feel Their Full Weight.
- Together - To Sense How Theology Leads to Application

The Five Passages

- Warning #1 2:1-4
- Warning #2 3:7 – 4:13
- Warning #3 5:11 – 6:20
- Warning #4 10:26-39
- Warning #5 12:15-29

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The Danger of Drifting

2:1 We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it

- Consider the **Israelites** in the Old Testament.
- It did not take long before they drifted away into doctrinal compromise and disobedience.
- Consider also the **New Testament churches**.
- Most NT letters deal with false teaching and one or another form of sin in the church.
- In **Revelation**, five of the seven churches in Chapters 2 and 3 are told by Jesus to repent.



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Those Who Heard

2:3 attested to us by those who heard

- We can say the same thing.
- Many of the New Testament authors knew Jesus and were eyewitnesses of the Gospel events.
- **Matthew, John and Peter** were among the Twelve.
- **James and Jude** were the Lord's brothers.
- **Mark** was likely present, though young, during Jesus' active ministry.
- **Paul** got much of His teaching directly from Jesus.



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20 Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. 21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."



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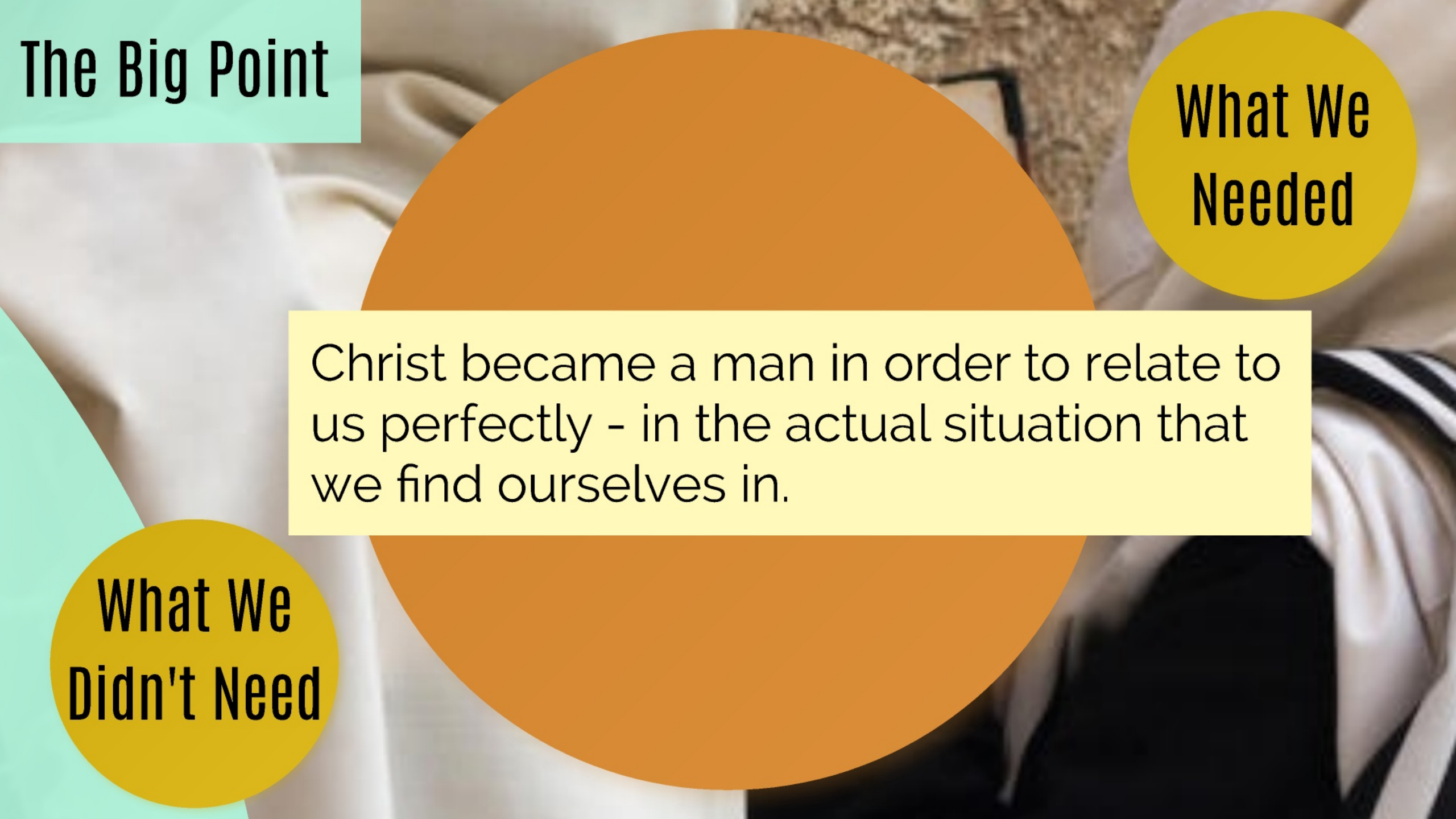




Jesus the Man 2:5-9

The Big Point

- **2:6** The one who **testified** was David.
- The **somewhere** was **Psalms 8:4-6**.
- **2:8** Someday we will see everything made subject to Jesus, but that day is not here just yet.
- **2:9** While every aspect of Christ's ministry was important, the main reason God the Son came to us as a real man was to die.



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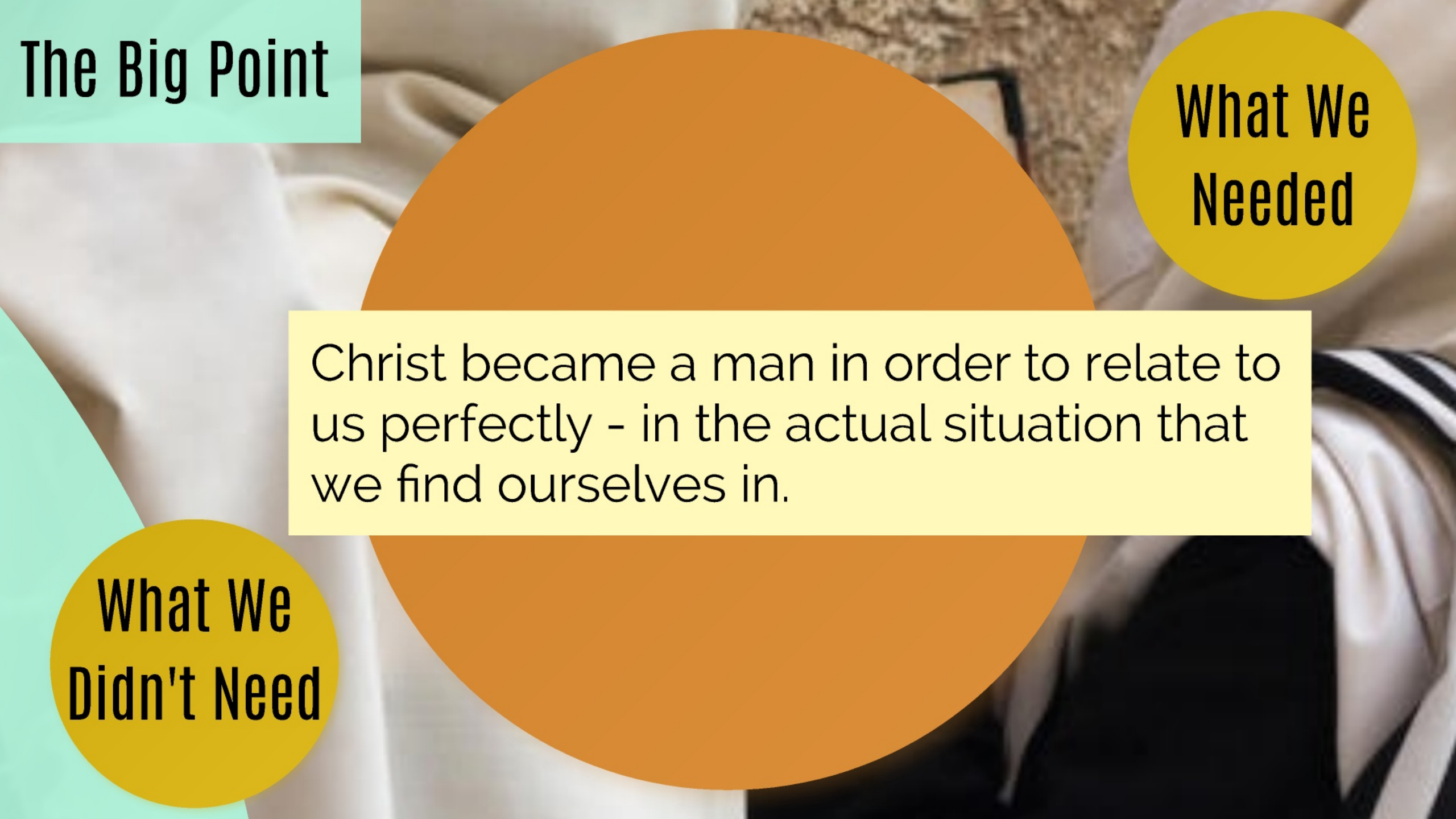
**What We
Needed**

Christ became a man in order to relate to us perfectly - in the actual situation that we find ourselves in.

**What We
Didn't Need**

What We Didn't Need

- If we only needed more **miracles**, God could have sent another Moses, Elijah or Elisha.
- If we only needed more **strong leadership**, He could have sent another Joshua, David or Nehemiah.
- If we only needed more **good teaching or preaching**, He could have sent another Isaiah, Ezekiel, or for that matter, Paul.
- But God knew that **we did not need more of these.**



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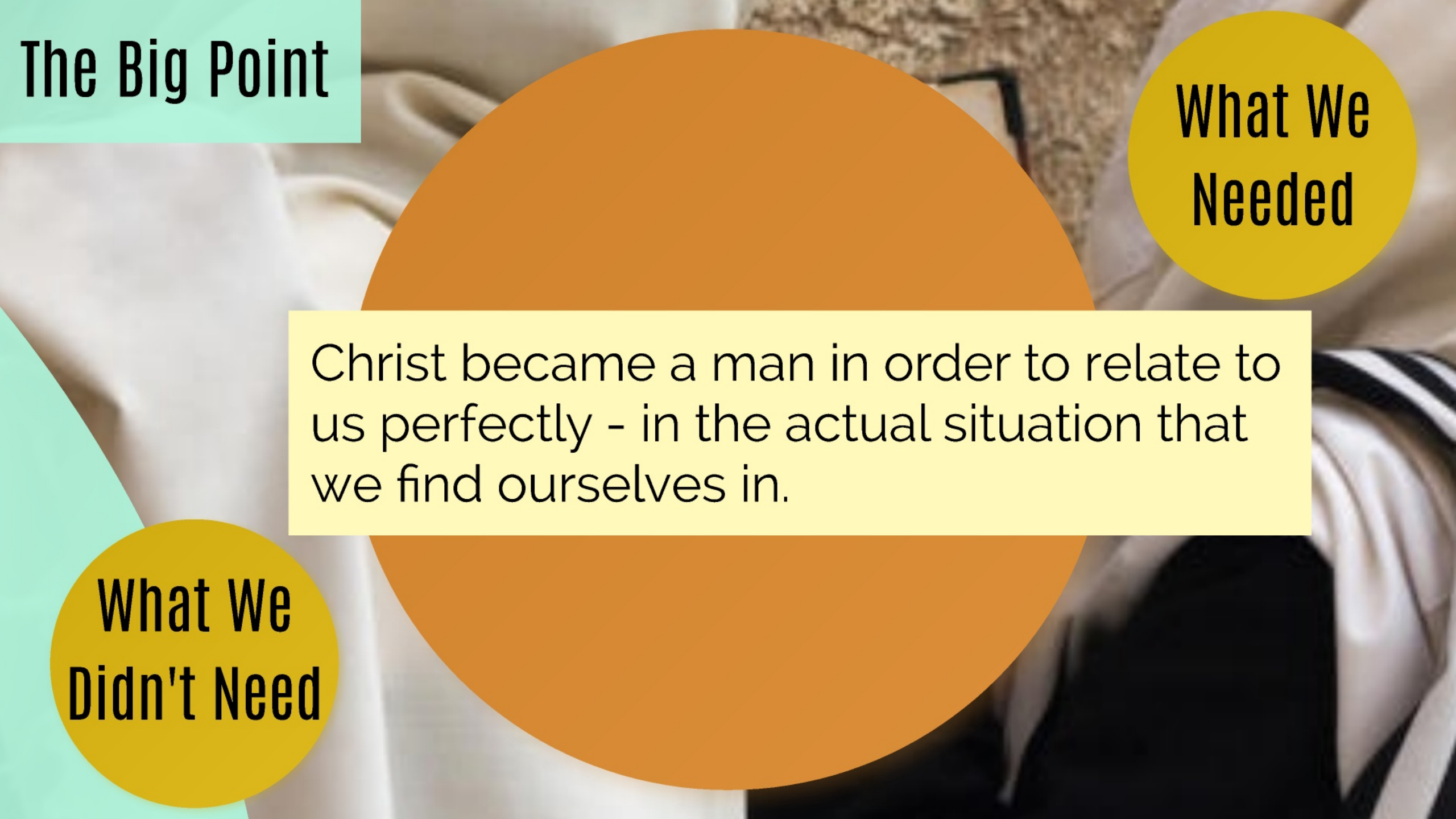
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- We needed **Someone stronger than death**, who could physically die, feel death's full devastating impact, and come out on the other side alive and standing.
- We needed God the Son to add full humanity to His perfect Deity, to **taste death for everyone** (v.9), and gain the victory over it.
- We needed a perfect sacrifice for sin.
- We needed someone to die in our place to satisfy the perfect justice of God.
- Jesus accomplished all of this and more – by dying on Calvary's cross.



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Jesus the High Priest 2:10-18

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- Think of Jesus leading the way for us through His suffering and death.

- **Perfect = complete**

“Although Christ was morally perfect and sinless, his life and work were brought by suffering to a form of perfection or completion which cannot have been possible without them.”

**(Raymond Brown, president,
Spurgeon's College, London 1973-1986)**

Sanctification

Death

Sanctification

From
Raymond
Brown

Sanctification has three parts to it:

Positional sanctification: This happens if and when we are born again. (Also called *Justification*)

Progressive sanctification: This happens later, gradually, day by day, as we grow in our faith and turn away from our sin, learning to love God more and more. (Also called simply *Sanctification*)

Ultimate sanctification: This happens "in glory." (Also called *Glorification*)



RAYMOND BROWN

The Message of
Hebrews

Revised Edition

THE NEW TESTAMENT SERIES EDITOR: JOHN R. W. STOTT

All too often sin, ignorance, or apathy keeps us from what we ought to be and can be with his help. We live well below our spiritual potential. If, through his work for us, we are sanctified, then let us see that our daily lives are 'set apart' so that what he achieved may be not only an item of theology but a fact of experience.

(Raymond Brown, president,
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- **2:14-18** Death is one enormous unifying issue for the whole human race.
- Think of all the tears that have been shed as a result of it.
- Even atheists have to fully deal with it.
- For example, the famous atheist Bertrand Russell.

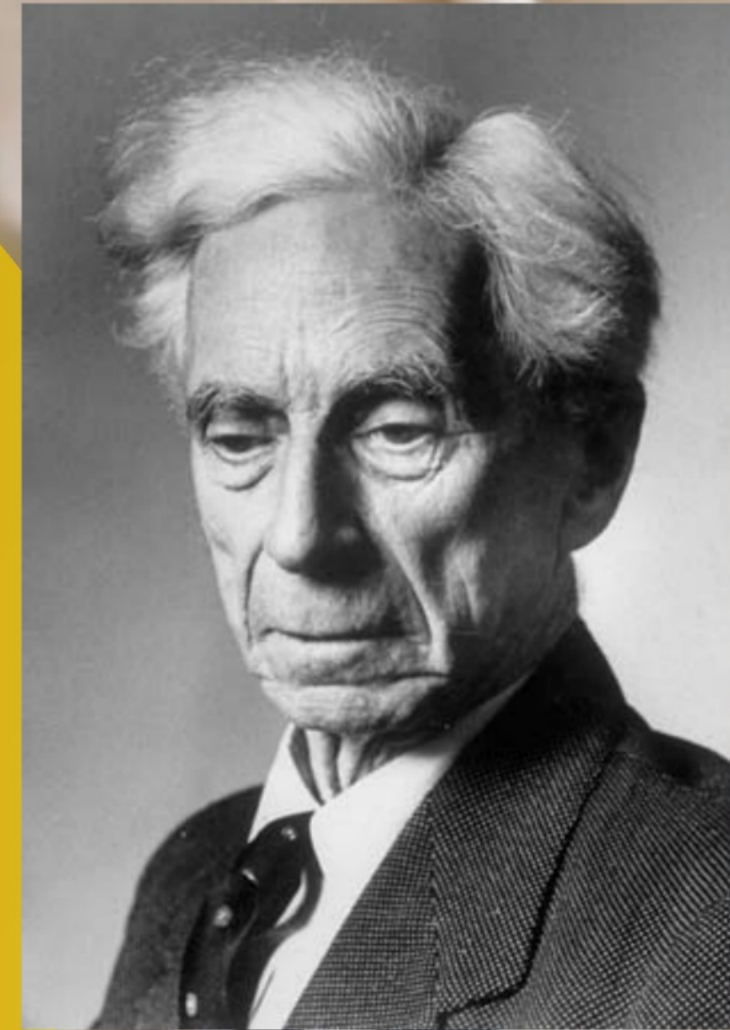
From
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Death
Defeated


The life of Man, viewed outwardly, is but a small thing in comparison with the forces of Nature. The slave is doomed to worship Time and Fate and Death, because they are greater than anything he finds in himself, and because all his thoughts are of things which they devour ...

United with his fellow-men by the strongest of all ties, the tie of a common doom ...

The life of Man is a long march through the night, surrounded by invisible foes, tortured by weariness and pain, towards a goal that few can hope to reach, and where none may tarry long. One by one, as they march, our comrades vanish from our sight, seized by the silent orders of omnipotent Death ... Brief and powerless is Man's life; on him and all his race the slow, sure doom falls pitiless and dark ...



Bertrand Russell
(1872 - 1970)



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in *A Free Man's Worship*
(1903)



Death

- **2:14-18** Death is one enormous unifying issue for the whole human race.
- Think of all the tears that have been shed as a result of it.
- Even atheists have to fully deal with it.
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From
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Death
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Death Defeated

- How much better is the perspective we find in our passage:
- Read **Hebrews 2:14-15** again.
- The Bible doesn't claim that death is feeble or insignificant.
- The Bible doesn't minimize its enormity.
- Rather, we see here that the power of sin, death and the devil has been destroyed - by Jesus Christ.
- **2:17** He is our **merciful and faithful high priest**.
- He has made propitiation for our sins - offering himself as the atoning sacrifice.
- Death has been defeated.
- We can be set free from its bondage.

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- We need Someone to intercede for us **mercifully**
- He mercifully shared in our human limitations and feelings.
- We need Someone to intercede for us **faithfully**.
- He is unchangingly faithful.
- He can address any need we have from the perspective of one who has already been through it.

From Chuck
Smith

Our
Warning
Passage

A Final
Prayer



Chuck Smith (1927-2013),
founding pastor of the
Calvary Chapel Movement

Jesus became a man. He experienced temptation. He knows what it is like to be tempted, so He is able to help us when we are tempted. He knows what it is like to bear the frailties of the flesh. He knows what it is like to be hungry and thirsty, and He knows how strong the desires of the flesh can get. Thus, He is equipped to sympathize with us and qualified to represent us before the Father.

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- Let's read **2:1-4** one more time.
- Does such great love deserve to be rejected?
- Does such great pain deserve to be ignored?
- The challenge we face today is to take our faith more seriously than ever before.
- With such a perfect Savior – exactly the Savior that we need – how exactly should we respond?



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The only way of escape from coming judgment is to accept the forgiveness that has been provided by Jesus Christ, on the basis of His death on the cross for you. Jesus told us that He is the only way (John 14:6). To try to find another path is foolish. Either your sins will be judged on the cross, if you accept His sacrifice for you, or you will be personally judged for them for all eternity. There is no escape.

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A Final Prayer

Heavenly Father,

- We thank you for sending Jesus Christ your Son to offer himself up as the atoning sacrifice we needed for our sins.
- We thank you that as a true man he faced temptation just like any of us.
- And we thank you that, though he became for a little while lower than the angels, he now reigns in heaven with you.
- Help us to remain faithful, to not drift away from our faith, and not be drawn away by the enticements of the world.
- In Christ,
- Amen.

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