

To: biblestudy@triumc.org (Trinity UMC Bible Study Mailing List) **Subject:** Trinity UMC Bible Study: January 21 TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY HEBREWS 2 Session: Tuesday, January 21, 2003

Material in blue is Rex Romeiser's work. The red material is my response.

HEBREWS 2 The KEY WORD in this chapter is JESUS, THE MAN. Remember, anytime the Hebrew Testament is used, Paul (or his school) is Proof Texting; i.e., using familiar material the reader fully understands and can not refute to prove the new point Paul is making. 1). Read through the whole chapter without stopping. Next, look at the way your translation (or transliteration) prints the words and phrases on the page. What is the printer trying to illustrate to you? Write a brief explanation here.

It seems to me that the "printer" is showing us what is God's word and what is written by men.

This is one of those questions that teachers wish they hadn't asked. My intention was to have you observe the intuitive structure, observing that some of the writing is prose and some quotes from the Psalms. PLEASE REMEMBER: Our purpose in this Bible Study is to mine the meaning of the many "code words." 2). Vss 1 - 4 are in a block in the NIV. In vs. 2, what is "the salvation" we'll miss if we "drift away," or miss the meaning of the "message of the angels?" What is "the punishment?" Who is the punish-er? (You might look for the answer in the lexicon.)

Salvation--deliverance from the power and effects of sin. Punishment--to live without peace and harmony (atonement). Punisher--God

Rex, my push back to you is to ask what these words mean to you: What is the deliverance from sin?

Your response concerning deliverance is more understandable because "to live without peace and harmony" is something I experience in my gut. The words "sin," drift away," mean to me the missing the mark--the mark being Atonement. By the way, this is the traditional definition of "sin." "The message of the angels" is the message of Atonement.

Yes, the "punisher" is God, but God as The Guarantor. My statement is "THE REWARD IS IN THE DEED ITSELF!" This is what God Guarantees: The Deed. When we do deeds that separate and dishonor resulting in the defeat of Atonement, the reward is in the deed! We feel mean spirited, angry, etc. God Guarantees it. When we do deed that bring us together and we are fun to live with, the reward is we feel good and healthy. God Guarantees it!

In this way, God is the punisher!

In vs. 4, what were the "signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit" given to us to demonstrate our "great salvation." (Don't make this too hard. Associate "salvation" with living "AT-ONE." What does it mean to "drift away" from AT-ONE-MENT?) **Signs--Healing of the sick, curing the lame, raising Lazarus from death. Drifting away from AT-ONE-MENT is to return to the situation of the Jews in trying to obey all the Old Testament laws and being unsuccessful.**

OK! It is helpful to remember that The Law always convicts. Even in doing a perfect job of obedience, it is never perfect! (What "signs, etc." did God use in demonstrating AT-ONE-MENT? Also, see "Holy Spirit" in the above lexicon.) **See "Signs" above.** Vss. 5 - 8 Now, Paul turns to the identification of Jesus, the man. The Psalm is 8: 4 - 6. First - THE MAN: What is the position into which the Psalmist puts human-kind. **The Psalmist puts man slightly lower than the angels. OK.** Vs. 9 Next - THE MAN is JESUS: For what purpose was The Christ made MAN? **To subject him to everything that we are subjected to. . Sometimes, it is helpful to think of "Jesus" as The Man. The "Christ" indicates Jesus' "anointment" as the earthly representative of AT-ONE-MENT.** Note these words in vss 10 - 13: Translate the code word "GLORY". What is its meaning? **Glory=salvation**

Rex, always associate "salvation" with ATONEMENT. For me, this takes "salvation" out of a moral or pious category, and moves it into an Indicative category, i.e., into The Way Life Is (TWLI). Translate the code word "salvation through suffering" **Because Jesus suffered for us, we now through faith in Him, will get to share in His glory.**

There is some theology to be dealt with here. In Genesis 2/3, we hear the story of The Really Real and The Way Life Is. God created us to live in the Really Real -- At-one with all things/relationships. Because of the human propensity to be gods, (eating of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the threat of eating from the Tree of Life and Death), humans were kicked out of the Garden into THE WAY LIFE IS.

Because of this profound disobedience of the first Adam, an act of profound obedience is necessary. This profound act of obedience was the price of redemptive death. The Jews couldn't pay it through obedience to the Law, so God comes to earth to pay the price God's self--the Christ. The "suffering" here is the cross. Translate the code word "Makes men holy" **Through faith in Christ we become holy. Makes humans At-one!** In vs. 14b, the "Devil" is mentioned. What is Paul's identification of the Devil's work? **The Devil's work is death.**

No! The Devil's work is always illusionary -- death is no illusion. Death is The Truth. The Devil's Work is to lie to us that living life is impossible. Yes, this is also The Truth, UNLESS, you have a personal relationship to The Christ, whose sacrifice transforms our inability into hopefulness.

This hopefulness is not anything I have or do. It is the work of Christ within me!

Now, take it one more step. If the Devil's work of death is to tempt Christians (as children of Abraham) to turn away from Atonement, then what is the work of Jesus as the Christ? **To lead us to atonement.**

For the answer, go to verse 17 - as follows: (NIV) For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he **might make atonement** for the sins of the people. Now, can you write a summary statement on why The Christ became A MAN? **Christ became man to show us not to fear death.**