

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

JESUS DIED FOR YOU TO LIVE FOREVER

Hebrews 2:9 “But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.”

Although Jesus is God and at His name every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, there was a brief time when Jesus set aside His divine nature. St. Paul writes in Philippians 2:6-8, “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!”

Isaiah prophesied of the time in Jesus’ life when He gave up heaven with these words, “He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.” St. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 8:9, “Though He (Jesus) was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.” Jesus took your place under God’s judgment against sin. He paid the penalty God demanded in payment for your sins. . . death! This is what theologians call the vicarious atonement of Jesus.

Jesus suffered death on Calvary’s cross on behalf of every person on earth. A hymn writer wrote, “Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me, Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die. . .” (LSB 611, v. 1) You, through Jesus are destined to share in His glory and honor as God’s royal child. You are an heir with Him in the world to come.

Jesus tasted death for you! He rose again on Easter for you. He descended from heaven so you will ascend there to be with Him, the saints and all the heavenly Angels. In and through Him your heavenly Father gives you the sure and certain hope of a life that will never end.

Prayer: Jesus, send Your Spirit to keep me always trusting in You for the eternal life you won for me. In Your holy name. Amen.

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, Beyond all thought and fantasy,

That God, the Son of God, should take Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

He sent no angel to our race, Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame, And to this world Himself He came.

For us baptized, for us He bore His holy Fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp He knew; For us the tempter overthrew.

For us He prayed; for us He taught; For us His daily works He wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus Still seeking not Himself but us.

For us by wickedness betrayed, For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death; For us He gave His dying breath.

For us He rose from death again; For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

All glory to our Lord and God, For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore Forever and forevermore.

(LSB 544)