The True Man Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Hebrews 2:5-18.
- B. We cannot exist without Christ.

II. Angels will never do as mediators because no angel has ever been a man, but Jesus has become man.

A. Jesus became a man so that He might capture our lost destiny.

B. Man was intended to be in dominion over creation through the derived authority of the God who indwelt Him. (Psalm 8)

C. Only when we accept dominion can we exercise it.

D. At the Fall, man lost his relationship with God, and everything is marred by futility.

E. However, the man Jesus already reigns over the universe fulfilling man's destiny. (John 5)

F. Death keeps man from being what he wants to be.

1. Disease and futility are insipient signs of death.

2. The end of a man's life is but the end of this futility.

G. Christ experienced death for every man and took his place through the cross.

III. Reasons Christ became man.

- A. So that God could reveal Christ in a believer.
- B. So that man's lost unity could be recovered.

1. Jesus was perfected in suffering.

- 2. This means that Jesus had to perfect His work, not that He had any flaws.
- 3. He restored man's relationship with God by completing the work.
- C. So that Jesus might destroy the power of death.
 - 1. This refers to the fearsomeness of death that men are held in bondage to.

2. Because we hunger so much after life, we believe the devil that life is doing what we please.

- 3. Christ reveals a new expression of life. Freedom is giving up life for what God wants.
- D. So that Jesus might explate the sins of the people.
 - 1. The cross is the basis of daily cleansing for the people of God. (I John 1:9)
 - 2. Christ is a refuge and a fortress.
 - 3. God can meet all your needs in Christ.

Application questions:

1. Why does man need a mediator between him and God?

2. Which reason for Christ's incarnation stands out to you? What strikes you?

3. What are some ways you have experienced futility recently? How does the message give you hope even in the midst of this?