

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for February 9, 2014**

**Christ is Superior to the Angels**  
**Hebrews 2:17-18**

The author of the Book of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the Old Testament prophets in Hebrews 1:1-4.

The author of Hebrews saw Christ as superior to the angels in Hebrews 1:5-2:18.

The author of Hebrews explained Christ's superiority to the angels (Hebrews 1:5-14).

After the author had explained the superiority of Christ to the angels, he then sounded a warning based on that explanation (Hebrews 2:1-4).

Christ's superiority to angels is not contradicted by His humanity (Hebrews 2:5-9).

Christ's superiority to angels is not contradicted by His sufferings, because His sufferings were necessary (Hebrews 2:10-18).

Christ's sufferings were necessary to complete His identification with humanity (Hebrews 2:10-13).

Christ's sufferings were necessary to nullify the devil's work and to bring an end to the fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-16).

Christ's sufferings were necessary so that He might be able to serve as our merciful and faithful high priest (Hebrews 2:17-18).

The word "merciful" (ELEEMON) speaks of that feeling of sympathy generated by the misery of another that leads one to act in order to relieve that misery.

The word "faithful" (PISTOS) as it is used in this verse references Christ's loyalty to His Father and to His Father's redemptive plan as manifested throughout His life and death in spite of all that He suffered.

The word "propitiation" (HILASKOMAI) in Hebrews 2:17 conveys the sense of a sacrifice that turns away the wrath of God and therefore makes God propitious or favorable toward us.

In Hebrews 2:18, the author is not emphasizing how Christ's sufferings made it possible for Him as a merciful and faithful high priest to propitiate, but rather he is emphasizing how it makes it possible for Him to come to our aid when we are being tempted.

May God give us the grace to take advantage of the help that He has extended to us through Christ so that we might not only enter His presence but also that we might be able to enjoy the blessings of His presence continuously.