**Morning sermon series – Anchored: Find Grace, Stand Firm**

 **"Don’t Miss Out!"** (Hebrews 2v1-9)

Human dignity: where does it come from? *What robs us of the dignity of being made in God’s image (God’s likeness)? What can restore it?*

**1) Don’t Miss Out …** (v1-4)

God the Son has shown us truly what God is like (recall chapter 1), and has announced a breath-taking salvation (chapter 2 v3). He has come to restore our dignity and to defeat death. Because this salvation is communicated by God himself, it is fully reliable. It is the stuff of history, testified to by Jesus himself, by eyewitnesses and by the powerful work of the Spirit (v3-4).

So don’t drift away from or reject Jesus (v1)! Anchored to Jesus Christ there is safe harbor and the discovery of what it means to be truly human; outside there is the fierce storm of God’s judgement (v2) and his verdict that we are defacing his likeness in us, rejecting him personally and harming ourselves.

**2) … Jesus is Able to Bring You In!** (v5-9)

Death threatens and can mock human dignity and life, but Jesus has tasted and experienced death so we don’t have to (v9), pouring out on us the kind, lavish love of God. Jesus suffered indignity to restore your dignity. He endured shame to restore you to honour and glory (v7, 10).

Why is Jesus able to do that by his death? Because he is Lord and King (v5, 8), crowned with glory and honour as ruling Sovereign by his resurrection (v9). Because he is on the ruling throne of grace, he is able to bring you into safe harbour and into his glory.

God the Son loves you and gave himself for you. He went through the thorns to gather you in and to restore you to life and dignity.

**Anchored in the Life and Glory of the Son!**

**Evening sermon series – Knowing Christ (1 John)**

**"Fellowship With Christ”** (1 John 1v1-10)

A delight that won’t run dry, that will even see us through death.

John writes in the aftermath of a church split to give his readers confidence in God, and to encourage them in their fellowship with the Father and Son (v3).

**1) Confident Testimony (v1-4)**

This eyewitness to Jesus describes what he saw, heard, and touched: Jesus, the “the eternal life which was with the Father” (v1-2). To know this Son is to have true LIFE.

Our faith is firmly grounded in the revealing of Jesus Christ in history and the subsequent eye witness testimony written down for us in the New Testament (v1-3).

Two things, then, which can give us the confidence to delight and rejoice in God: knowing the truth and knowing fully restored, cleansed fellowship with him …

**2) Confident Fellowship (v5-10)**

“Fellowship” (*koinonia*) with Christ is John’s way, here, of talking about knowing Christ. “Fellowship” is the loving sharing of friendship and partnership – sharing Christ’s loves and hates, his priorities and ways; and knowing his love.

Wonderfully, God tells us in verses 5-10 that the blood of Jesus (his death and atoning sacrifice) overcomes sin – it fully restores and cleanses our fellowship with Father and Son. We can delight in unspoiled friendship with Christ, our dignity restored (see this morning’s sermon). God upholds this promise without wavering as we acknowledge our sin to him (v9).

We can walk upright in the light together, confident that Jesus’ blood cleanses us from the sin that remains (v7).

**Fellowship Fully Restored!**