

Sunday, March 1
Pioneers
Hebrews 2:10-18

Jesus was the perfect pioneer, sent by God to suffer for us, help us in our failing humanity, and lead us from ashes to glory.

My husband is an avid reader of biographies of pioneers who brought much-needed change into American society. One of his favorite narratives is about Booker Taliaferro Washington. Born in 1856 to a slave woman and white man from a neighboring plantation in Virginia, Mr. Washington died in Alabama in 1915. He was an African-American educator, author, orator, and advisor to multiple U.S. Presidents.

Like Jesus, Mr. Washington had a lowly birth and was hated by peers and those who misunderstood him. Like Jesus, he was passionate to pave the way for his followers, leading them into new lives with hope and courage.

No one compares to Jesus, the One who makes us holy, who calls us brother and sister, and who became one of us. Yet, when I think of early Christians and other pioneers who followed Christ, I am encouraged to step in line and make a difference in my sphere of influence. If Jesus did it, and Booker T. Washington did it, then by the power of the Holy Spirit, I can do it, and so can you!

Macy Johnson is the pianist for our traditional worship service and a retired accountant. She and Jeff have 2 children and 5 grandchildren.

Hebrews 2:10-18 New International Version (NIV)

10 In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. 11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.[a] 12 He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;

in the assembly I will sing your praises.”[b]

13 And again, “I will put my trust in him.”[c]

And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”[d]

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like them,[e] fully human 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. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Footnotes:

Hebrews 2:11 The Greek word for brothers and sisters (adelphoi) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God’s family; also in verse 12; and in 3:1, 12; 10:19; 13:22.

Hebrews 2:12 Psalm 22:22

Hebrews 2:13 Isaiah 8:17

Hebrews 2:13 Isaiah 8:18

Hebrews 2:17 Or like his brothers