

## HEBREWS LESSON EIGHT OUTLINE

- I. Humanity's most pressing need
  - A. Proximity to and intimacy with our Creator
  - B. This was interrupted by the fall
  - C. Only Christ as our great high priest meets this need
- II. Structure of Hebrews 4:16-5:10
  - A. v. 4:14-16 Hold fast your confession/draw near with confidence
  - B. v. 5:1-4 The Levitical high priest
  - C. v. 5:5-10 Christ as high priest according to a new order
    - 1. His calling v. 5-6
    - 2. His qualifications v. 7-10
- III. 4:14-16
  - A. Their Savior is their great high priest (2:17-18), named Jesus who passed through the heavens (2:1-16), the Son of God (chapter 1)
    - 1. What is a high priest and why is he needed?
      - a. God is holy and Israel was sinful and needed a mediator
      - b. Israel's need for God's presence had to be met by God's provision
        - i. He gave the Law, the tabernacle, the sacrificial system, the priesthood
        - ii. High priest had to be from tribe of Levi, the family of Aaron as God had called
      - c. Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat
        - i. This atoned (covered) the sins of BOTH Israel and the high priest
    - 2. Jesus is the high priest who passed through the heavens to the throne of God as in 2:9-10, 1:3A-4
    - 3. Jesus is the Son of God as in 1:1-4 and is divine
  - B. What should they do? Hold fast their confession!
    - 1. What was that? All he had taught in chapters 1-2
  - C. Why could they hold fast?
    - 1. Their high priest was tempted in all ways, yet sinless- right before God
  - D. What was the result?

1. Confident access to the throne of grace and mercy!
2. Restoration of proximity to and intimacy with God!

IV. 5:1-4

- A. Similarity between Levitical high priest and Jesus- both were sympathetic
- B. Crucial difference- the Levitical priest needed sacrifice for himself b/c of weakness/sin
- C. Had to follow God's calling, as Aaron had done

V. 5:5-6

- A. Similarity between Christ and Levitical high priest- He also had to be called
- B. Crucial differences
  1. He is called by God as a Son
  2. He is called by God as a high priest FOREVER according to the order of Melchizedek, which means king of righteousness
- C. Resolves failings of Levitical priesthood in that sacrifices were temporary and could not make the sinner permanently righteous before God

VI. 5:7-10

- A. Christ was perfected as a high priest through suffering
  1. He was morally perfect, but sufferings made Him our perfect high priest who could be sympathetic to temptation and suffering

VII. Implications for us

- A. The Word lays us open and judges our thoughts and intentions, but we can hold fast to our high priest who understands our every trial and confidently approach the throne of grace and mercy
- B. In every trial, what is your most pressing need is closeness and intimacy with God as mediated by your great high priest. You can draw near with confidence and receive the mercy and grace to help in your time of need.
- C. In your failures, you can walk in peace, confident that you have a high priest forever, who has made you right before God, even if you must carry earthly consequences for your sins.