

I. Introduction

- A. God's help on time, every time because he is not only the creator of time but Lord of time as well.
 - 1. Jesus is the Son of God
 - 2. Jesus is also the Great High Priest
- B. In order to have confidence in salvation through Christ, we must understand how He is different than other go-betweens.
 - 1. The very existence of the priesthood and sacrificial system is evidence that man is separated from God
 - 2. The salvation that Christ offers is a total life-altering work. It is salvation from guilt and condemnation, from the power of sin, from the wrath of God, from the fear of death and from a life defined by meaningless work.

II. Hebrews 5:1-10

A. The key: v 9

"And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."

- 1. We have to understand why or how Jesus can be the source of eternal salvation
- 2. We'll come back to v9 after we establish that.
- B. How Jesus can be the source of eternal salvation
 - 1. What He is not (1-4)
 - a. Of human origins
 - b. Beset with weakness
 - 1) One effect of sin is that it makes a person selfish.
 - 2) Human priests become blind, hard hearted, and judgmental toward others in favor of themselves (i.e. King David).

**One of the most powerful ways we see God in each others' lives is through self-sacrifice in favor of another.

2. What He is (5-10)

Jesus can be the source of eternal salvation because of His ...

- a. Identity: Qualified as High Priest because He is the Son of God.
 - 1) Doubt: Your salvation is not sufficient, your guilt remains, condemnation hangs over your head, God's wrath is imminent.
 - 2) Reality: You have no ordinary High Priest, you have the Son of God!
- b. Longevity: Melchizedek, a different order of priesthood
 - 1) Melchizedek

- a) Wait til later, but for now, he represents a different order and is a symbol of what God would do in the New Covenant - salvation through Jesus Christ
- b) High Priest not for a season but forever (5:6; 6:20; 7:17, 21, 24, 28)
- 2) What if ...
 - a) You received a treasure of infinite value and you were guaranteed you could go on enjoying it forever and it would always maintain its value no matter what?
 - b) That is the Gospel!
- c. Purity: Forged in the fire
 - 1) From birth to death, Jesus experienced the sinless infirmities of human nature
 - a) He knew what it was like to grow & mature; hunger and thirst; grow weary; face temptation to sin and persecution.
 - b) "In the days of" not just one day!
 - 2) "Save him from death" - worse than physical death is unbelief and disobedience
 - 3) "Learned obedience"
 - a) Anything in life that is untested is unreliable. The weakest form of obedience is untested obedience.
 - From untested to tested and proven
 - From obedience w/o suffering to obedience with great suffering
 - b) Salvation is not earned by obedience.

Salvation is God's gift to us in Christ, but those who look to Him as their unique source of eternal salvation will want to express their faith in ongoing obedience as He did. Faith in Christ commits us to share in His struggle against sin.

- 4) "Being made perfect"
 - a) Qualified
 - b) A person who qualifies does not change - it's just made official

**Jesus, in His purity, was perfected (qualified; made from the beginning completely adequate) as the source of eternal salvation.

III. Challenge

- A. Jesus is the source of eternal salvation because of His identity as the Son of God and His longevity in the priesthood of Melchizedek and His purity in obedience through suffering.
- B. The question: Do you have this eternal salvation? Not everyone does.
 - 1. To all who obey ...
 - 2. Obedience as presented in Hebrews (where we've been):
 - a. Trust Him and hold fast to our hope. (Hebrews 3:6)
 - b. Guard against a heart of unbelief. (Hebrews 3:12)
 - c. Hold fast to our confession/proclamation. (Hebrews 4:14)
 - d. And draw near to God for help. (Hebrews 4:16)