

LESSON 12: HEBREWS 4:14-6:20
SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

OVERVIEW

- . Christ's great high priesthood – Hebrews 4:14-16
- . Christ's qualifications as high priest – Hebrews 5:1-11
- . The failure of some – Hebrews 5:12-6:3
- . The call to persevere and the surety of God's promises – Hebrews 6:4-20

CHRIST'S GREAT HIGH PRIESTHOOD – HEBREWS 4:14-16

- . A great high priest
 - . Author is suggesting His superiority over the Levitical line of Aaron, who is usually referred to as the "high priest"
 - . Christ has ascended to the most inner of inner places, through the heavens to the right hand of the Father
 - . It is from here that He exercises His intercessory work on our behalf
 - . The author understands the knowledge of the Hebrew audience and is appealing to their knowledge by giving Christ this highest of titles
- . A sympathetic high priest
 - . Christ is a great high priest who cares deeply about us
 - . He is able to identify readily with us, because "he has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin"
 - . He has been through everything we could possibly ever face

CHRIST'S QUALIFICATIONS AS HIGH PRIEST – HEBREWS 5:1-11

- . Appointed our high priest by God
 - . The priesthood was not something that anyone could take or claim on their own
 - . It had to be by God's appointment – Hebrews 5:4
 - . Jesus did not choose this task for Himself
 - . The Greek translation for Christ is "anointed one"
 - . "You are my son"
 - . This quote is taken from Psalm 2:7
 - . As God's Son, Jesus has special rights
 - . "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek"
 - . This quote is taken from Psalm 110:4
 - . All priests in the line of Aaron were mortals

- . Christ's priesthood lasts forever, with no successors
- . With Melchizedek, there is no evidence of where he came from or where he went
 - . He was not from the line of Aaron
- . A compassionate high priest
 - . He knows how to deal gently with those who are ignorant and who are going astray
- . One with the people
 - . Jesus' oneness with humanity is seen in the fervent nature of His prayers in Gethsemane
 - . His prayers to the Father were accompanied with loud cries and tears
 - . They were genuine, heart rendering pleas to the Father for His sustaining grace
 - . Obedience learned through suffering
 - . There is a type of perfection that results from actually having suffered, a suffering that is different even from a readiness to suffer
 - . A perfect and eternal salvation
 - . Jesus became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him

THE FAILURE OF SOME - HEBREWS 5:12-6:3

- . Need for Christians to grow up
 - . Christians must grow in their knowledge of Bible truth
 - . Instead of maturing and exhibiting appetites for solid teaching, many Christians do not move beyond the most basic steps of faith
 - . Maturing does not just happen, rather it takes study and work
 - . There is a difference between a childlike spirit and a childish spirit
- . Two kinds of teaching
 - . Elementary teaching
 - . The author lists those basic elementary truths about our faith
 - . These are doctrines believed by Christians but not distinctively Christian
 - . Examples would include faith in God or instructions about baptism
 - . Teaching about righteousness
 - . Stands for what is in the right, the good, as judged by God's character and nature
 - . It is what ought to be seen abundantly in all true Christians
 - . A mature Christian will constantly exercise in areas of spiritual perception so that they can readily distinguish between what is good and what is evil

THE CALL TO PERSEVERE AND THE SURETY OF GOD'S PROMISES
HEBREWS 6:4-20

- . Going on or going back
 - . We are called to perfect our faith
 - . This doesn't mean to achieve absolute complete knowledge, rather to achieve a certain level of maturation in Christian faith
 - . We all have a basic understanding of where we are in our faith journey
 - . Our aim is to push on to the next level of understanding and maturation, not to remain idle or to fall back
 - . In the letter to the Hebrews the author is calling them to move forward in this new understanding of the Messiah and not to go back to the old ways of faith
 - . He warns them of the consequence of rejecting the true Messiah and going back to their old ways
 - . At the heart of his warning is the consequence for those who are not willing to repent
 - . True repentance involves a change of the mind and will, a turning around to follow Jesus
 - . While living, it is never too late to repent and turn from our sinful ways
- . The surety of God's promise
 - . What God has promised is the stabilizing factor for our lives
 - . Jesus, our great high priest, has entered the heavenly realm and sits at the right hand of God
 - . Jesus acts as our intermediary
 - . Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we become a part of the body of Christ
 - . The Spirit will help to guide us in to all truths and will show us how to find peace in every and all situations

NEXT LESSON: SEPTEMBER 21, 2016 – HEBREWS 7-10