Jesus, Our Great High Priest

Hebrews: Hearing and Obeying God’s Son

Hebrews 7:1-28

A Different Kind of Priest and Priesthood -- The Gospel of the Forever Priest

Jesus alone is the Priest-King. 7:1, 2

Jesus alone is the Son of God. 7:3

Jesus’ Priesthood precedes/preempts the Levitical priesthood. 7:4-10

Jesus’ Priesthood establishes a New Law and New Order. 7:11-14

Jesus’ Priesthood is immortal (untouched by death). 7:15-17

Jesus’ Priesthood eliminates all that separates us from God. 7:18, 19

Jesus’ Priesthood is confirmed by God’s oath. 7:20, 21

Jesus is the Guarantor of a superior covenant. 7:22

Jesus alone can save and continually intercede for us. 7:23-25

Jesus alone is the perfectly holy ultimate forever Priest. 7:26-28

*Why the Forever Priest is Good News for Us*

The Bible Jesus Read (our Old Testament) overflows with priests and a complete sacrificial system under the Law of Moses, so why does our author make so much over this Priest and His Priesthood? Why the ten different ways that Jesus is a superior Priest of a superior Priesthood? Part of the answer is that we are supposed to mature in the faith, and that means not only being saved, but understanding our salvation and how to apply it. We know that “Jesus saves.” Do we know how?

*1. Jesus’ divinely decreed Priesthood alone has the power to save.*

We begin to mature in our faith when we grasp that Jesus is not merely another religious teacher, and that other religions are not “teaching the same principles.” We will never be strong in our faith as long as we think that somehow people can find God outside of Christ. We grow up when we see that we can please either God or man, not both. Acts 4:8-20

*2. Jesus’ eternal Priesthood means our debt has been forever paid.*

There is much more to come on this idea in chapters 8-10, but for now, remember what we owe God, and that Jesus has indeed paid it all. We will always remain babes in the faith if we think that every stumble and sin means that God is angry with us, or that we have lost our salvation. Jesus’ once-for-all sacrifice puts our sin behind us, and now we can walk righteously, with His prayers supporting us. Romans 8:1-11.

*3. Jesus’ superior Priesthood frees us from legalism.*

While we speak of being saved by grace, many believers are still striving to keep the Law of Moses, as if that is pleasing to God. To mature, we must see that the Law never made people righteous, and never could. To entangle ourselves with Sabbath-keeping, dietary restrictions, and other ordinances is to miss the point of the Cross. See Colossians 2, Galatians 3.