

Consider Jesus: Able to Perfectly Save Hebrews 7:1 - 8:6

The author of Hebrews repeatedly calls his readers to a fixed, steady, studied focus on the Person of Jesus Christ the Lord. He alone provides the "contents" - the full supply of life that human creatures are looking for. In chapter 7 and following, the door to every new covenant reality swings wide open on this "hinge" - "He is able to save forever... completely... perfectly" (7:25). "He" is the full and perfect Savior. "He" is able to fully and perfectly save!

By identifying Jesus Christ as a "high priest according to the order of Melchizedek" (5:10; 6:20; 7:1-10) - an order prior to and, therefore superior to Abraham, Aaron and the Levitical priests - Jesus is established as a great high priest not by genealogical descent, but by God's "say so". He is confirmed as "such a high priest" (8:1) not according to law, but "according to the power of an indestructible life" (7:16). As a Great High Priest without "beginning of days nor end of life" (7:3), Christ is a forever, perpetual, permanent Intercessor, "able to save"... forever, perpetually, permanently (7:3,21,24).

The law - with its rules, rituals, priests, sacrifices - "made nothing perfect" (7:19). Such things were temporary, imperfect, shadows - Christ alone is eternal, perfect, the substance. We "draw near to God" (7:19), we stay near to God, not by the "imperfect"... but only through the "perfect" - the Saving Life of Christ! Christianity is always about God's gift of Life - John 10:10; I Jo 5:10-11 - His Life! He saves and lives and works within as a "life", not a law. Our "better hope" (7:19), our only hope - is "not I, but Christ." That is the salvation theology of every born again one. It is also the living-the-Christian-life theology of every born again one.

To consider "Law" instead of Christ as the way to complete and perfect salvation can only point to one of two things:

- 1) That "Life" is wanting! Or...
- 2) That we are not aware of, or, not considering and depending upon His life already in us!

Let me put it in a way that may cause your train of thought to jump its tracks: Jesus wants us to live the same life He lived on earth - the life "near to God" (7:19). He has "offered up Himself" (7:27) "for" us and "to" us. A gift able to save completely and fully (7:25). A "once and for all" (7:27) gift to which nothing needs to be or can be added. It is "fitting for us" (7:26) - it suits us perfectly. This is what we were made for. No one needs more than this Perfect Savior gives!

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Greetings

September is my favorite month - the beginning of the fall season. The mornings are cooler (even in Florida), the fishing gets better, a fresh "crop" of students comes to our church - most everything about the fall season suits me fine.

I'm aware at this point in life that contentment, joy, even peace are not found in the context. I think that's why the Scripture exhorts and charges us to "be ready in season and out of season". The circumstances may be favorable or not, the conditions may be pleasant or not, the surroundings may be comfortable or not - in the ups and downs, the ins and outs, the plusses and minuses - we are to be ready to proclaim the living, loving truth of God.

In some seasons its easy to do that, while in others, not so much so! In some seasons people are grateful, in others hateful. In some seasons we'll do so with our lips, in others with our lives. In some seasons joyfully, in others tearfully.

In every season the Saving Life of Christ in us - the "inner-stantial" reality of every born again one - is enough for any "circum-stantial" season. Let's "be ready", no matter how September unfolds!



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- 11 Alachua Study
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- 25 Ocala Study

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