

Consider Jesus: Our Better High Priest Hebrews 5:1-10

Everything that is Christian has its origins and destiny in Christ. He alone is "the Source of eternal salvation" (Heb 5:9). There is nothing in legalism, ritualism or ceremonialism that could improve upon or add to the work of Christ.

This is glaringly true in the New Covenant understanding of Jesus Christ as our Great High Priest (for all Jews and Gentiles). In the Old Covenant there were three essential qualifiers for a legitimate priest:

- 1) They must be human - "taken from among men" (5:1). They served as human representatives of man before God. They fully identified with the people they represented (5:2).
- 2) They must be Divinely appointed - "called by God, even as Aaron was" (5:4). Priesthood was no self-earned position, allowing no room for pride or condescension - "he also is beset with weaknesses" (5:2).
- 3) They must have something to offer - "gifts and sacrifices for sin" (5:1). The sins of guilty people were transferred and placed upon a guiltless animal for the covering of sins - never purchased by the man or the animal, but always and only received by faith as the gift of God.

The author is saying, "You Hebrews know all about this - how this is enacted over and over again - a temporary, imperfect priest offering involuntary sacrifices that never fully took away sins. Now it's time to CONSIDER JESUS - fully man, fully God, a perfect man offering a voluntary sacrifice. All these types pointed to Him - He is the fulfillment of all this - He is the Better High Priest!"

1) He is fully human (5:7,8; Jo 1:14; Phil 2:6). He has a personal acquaintance with the full range of human experience. He personally depended upon God for all He did. He is a perfect human representative able to perfectly represent all men before God (5:9; I Jo 2:2).

2) He is Divinely appointed for the task - "designated by God" (5:10). God and man in One able to bring God and man together as one.

3) He had something to offer - the gift of Himself! The voluntary offering of His pure and holy and sinless life superseded any animal offering. He alone is able to save once and for all (Heb 9:24-10:22) - "forever" (5:6)!

This full and perfect High Priest freely offers a full and perfect salvation to any and all willing to trust in Him as the "source of eternal salvation" (5:9). Why would we consider anything less? Or try to add anything more?

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Greetings

Most of you know I really enjoy Bluegrass music. A banjo tune is a great call to worship. Add a fiddle and a mandolin and I'm ready to "get down" to the glory of God!

A relatively new (bluegrass speaking) song is called "On My Father's Side". You have to use your imagination and step back into the Jerusalem temple around 10-12 AD when Jesus was speaking to the scribes and temple leaders. It could have gone like this (a loose paraphrase of the lyrics):

"What's your name son?" Well, on my mother's side my name is Jesus. On my Father's side they call me Emmanuel.

"How old are you?" On my mother's side I'm 12, but on my Father's side, I'm quite a bit older than that.

"Where are you from?" On my mother's side I'm from Nazareth - with some relatives in Bethlehem. On my Father's side, I'm from the New Jerusalem.

"What do you plan to do with your life?" On my mother's side, I'll be crucified. On my Father's side, you wouldn't believe me even if I told you!

He is 100% God, 100% man. A stunning, awesome, amazing Savior we'll never totally figure out. I can't fully explain Him (I hope you can't!). We'll never worship what we think we can totally understand!

CALENDAR

JULY

1,8,22,29	CCF
10	Alachua Study
13-15	Calais, ME (207-454-2579)
25	UF Baptist Campus Ministry (352-376-4405)
31	Ocala Study

AUGUST

4	Jesup, GA (912-530-9423)
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SEPTEMBER

6-9	Louisville, KY (502-664-5622)
16-21	Durango, CO

OCTOBER

5-7	Binghamton, NY (607-239-5006)
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Praise & Prayer

 Our amazing, majestic Savior

 Our full and perfect salvation

 Our churches to be stunned by our Great High Priest

 Our brothers and sisters to dare to live by His Life

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