

Hebrews

Hebrews 7:26-8:12 – The Perfect Christ

May 3, 2009

- I. **Hebrews 7:26-28, 8:1-12 . . .** For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; [27] who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. [28] For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever. [8:1] Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, [2] a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. [3] For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer. [4] Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; [5] who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain." [6] But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. [7] For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. [8] For finding fault with them, He says, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, when I will effect a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; [9] not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; for they did not continue in My covenant, and I did not care for them, says the Lord. [10] "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. [11] "And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all will know Me, from the least to the greatest of them. [12] "For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

II. Prayer

III. Today's topic – The Perfect Christ

IV. **Jesus Is The Perfect High Priest Who Brings Us Into The Presence Of God:**

- A. God says Jesus is holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens, and made perfect forever
 - 1. **Holy** – He is righteous and set apart.
 - 2. **Innocent** – He is free from moral wrong and disloyalty; there is nothing that can be condemned in him – no craftiness or duplicity or evil cunning or malice.
 - 3. **Undefiled** – He is pure – no mixed motives and no hypocrisy. And He not only is pure but he remains pure forever.
 - 4. **Separated from sinners** – He is the perfect example of **Psalm 1:1-2**
 - a. **Psalm 1:1-2 . . .** How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! [2] But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.
 - b. Though he walked among and ate and drank with sinners, he took no part in their thinking, attitudes, speech, or deeds.
 - 5. **Exalted above the heavens** – He is more highly esteemed than any thing or anyone in the universe. What this means is that he is valued, respected, revered, honored, and deemed worthy more than anything that God created.
 - 6. **Made perfect forever** – He conforms perfectly to God's intentions for him. He is beyond improvement.
- B. What the Law could not do – bring us into the presence of God – Christ has done and continues to do for all who have repented of sin, trusted in Him for salvation, and are living according to the will and word of God.

V. **Jesus Is The Perfect Minister Who Leads Us In Worship:**

- A. God says Jesus is the minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle (not the one made with human hands). In other words, He is the minister in the presence of God. In addition, He has obtained a more excellent ministry than any minister ever.
- B. What is a minister? Someone authorized to conduct religious worship.
 - 1. Jesus, as our **perfect priest** brings us into the presence of God, and then as our **perfect minister**, He leads us in worship of God.
 - 2. And what is the worship that He leads us in? The worship of giving honor and respect and adoration to God.

3. And how does He lead us in this worship of God? By leading us into a holy life so that our worship is the worship of giving God honor, showing Him respect, and adoring Him in all we think, say, and do each and every day.
4. This is not to say that corporate worship (*our worship service*) is not worship. But I am saying as clearly as I know how, corporate worship is not worship of God if our corporate worship is not an **extension** and an **expression** of the honor, respect, and adoration we give to God in thought, word, and deed every other day of the week.

C. Consider these Scriptures:

1. **John 4:23** . . . But an hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers** will worship the Father in **spirit** and **truth**; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. (*True worship is not a function of time or place, but of the heart, mind, and life.*)
2. **Romans 12:1** . . . I urge you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and **holy** sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual (or rational) service of worship.
3. **Matthew 6:9-10** . . . Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, **Hallowed** be Your name. [10] 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.
 - a. To hallow God's name is to revere and treat God, himself, as holy!! To pray for this is to want God to be revered and treated as holy by everyone, including me!
 - b. For God's kingdom to come and His will to be done here as it is done there requires us to submit to His rule and die to our rule and the pursuit or participation in all rebellion.
4. **Matthew 5:23-24** . . . Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24] leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and **then come** and present your offering.

- D. The point here is that Jesus Christ leads us in true worship of God. And true worship is not a function of time or place or mood or singing or testimony or any other thing of that nature. True worship is a function of the heart, mind, and life – though there is nothing wrong with expressing it publicly in these other ways.

VI. **Jesus Is The Perfect Husband Who Draws Us Into Relationship Built On Love:**

- A. God says He will put His laws into their minds, and He will write them on their hearts. And He will be their God, and they shall be His people.
How is He going to make this happen?
- B. Let me begin my explanation here – Just as there are two testaments in our Bible, so there are two covenants that God made with His people (*including us*) – the first covenant and the second covenant.
 - 1. Now I know we have only worked our way into chapter eight of Hebrews, yet in these eight chapters much has already been said about these two covenants.
 - 2. For our teaching today, I will make my point about these two covenants by reading again from **Hebrews 8:6-7** . . . But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. [7] For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.
- C. Not only here in Hebrews, but throughout the scriptures, God makes it clear that there is a noticeable difference between the first and the second covenant. And what is that difference?
 - 1. The first covenant was entered into by faith and was lived up to by a mixture of fear and self-discipline.
 - 2. The second covenant is entered into by faith and is lived up to from the motive of love. And I am not speaking here of love that stands alone, but of a love that grows out of a loving, intimate relationship between two people.
 - a. This is why we read in **II Cor. 5:14** . . . that the love of Christ controls us. What this means for us Christians is that the love we have for Christ, deep within us, this love compels us and constrains us and drives us to please Him in every way we can.
 - b. And as God says in **Romans 13:10** . . . Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
 - c. And again, after declaring the first and second great commandments (love God, love neighbor), Jesus said in **Matthew 22:40** . . . On these two commandments depend the **whole** Law and the Prophets."
 - 3. **In other words, the love we have for Christ is to be the motivation which compels us and constrains us to do what is right and good according to God's will and word so that we are pleasing to Him in all things.**

D. And so we see that God's prophecy in the OT and His restatement of that prophecy here in **Hebrews 8:10** . . . to put His laws into our mind, to write them on our heart, to become our God, and for us to become His people . . . is a promise to change the basic motivation of our relationship to Him and our living for Him **from** faith, fear, and self-discipline **to** faith and love.

1. In other words, God writes His laws on our minds and hearts by nurturing the growth of love for Him within us.
2. And how does He nurture the growth of love for Him within us? **By making Christ our perfect husband.**

E. Why a husband?

1. Without a doubt, God has given us every reason needed to love Him supremely by what He has done for us in and through Jesus Christ – as well as what He has given us in creation and in how He cares for us day by day.
2. Yet it is one thing to love from a distance and another to love intimately. Love from afar is good, but it has little bearing on our relationship to the one loved. To love intimately – now that has a serious and life-impacting affect on the way we think, speak and act in any such relationship.
3. And what relationship is more intimate than the relationship between a husband and a wife.
 - a. So you see, by making Christ our husband, God has given us the greatest opportunity possible to enter into an intimate relationship with Him – knowing Him, not just about Him.
 - b. And by making Christ our perfect husband, God has made it reasonable and rational to give ourselves intimately and completely to loving him as He deserves to be loved.
 - (1) For it is in knowing Christ that we come to love him.
 - (2) And it is in loving Jesus that we come to love God as He deserves to be loved – loving Him with a love that, when mixed with our faith compels us to be a holy and sanctified people for God's own possession.

VII. How do we get to this kind of love?

- A. **Philippians 3:7-8a** . . . But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. [8] More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord . . .