

- Church Web Site

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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

Hebrews

is the only book
in the New Testament
to teach that Jesus
is our
High Priest.

- You may be asking, Why do we need to study about Jesus, the High Priest?
- Isn't that Old Testament material?
 - Yes, it is.
 - So let's find out why the book of Hebrews spends so much time on the subject.

- **What** do you know about the priest hood?

- **Why** is it important anyway?

- It's important because it teaches a lesson about ourselves.
 - A lesson we had rather not dwell on.
 - And what lesson might that be?

- Until we gain an adequate sense of the overwhelming **purity of Jesus**
- And a true perspective of **our sinful self** and unworthiness.
- We are not in a position to **appreciate** why we need a high priest.

- **It is our failure**
on these two points
that makes the idea
of a priesthood
unfamiliar
and
without significance
to us.

- One of the reasons that the Old Testament **is indispensable** to understanding the New Testament is exactly here,
 - It provides us with a sense of the **sovereignty**, **majesty**, and **purity** of God,

- And on the other hand,
it confronts us
with the reality
of our **failures** and **needs**.
- In the light of these
two points,
the importance of
sacrifices and **priests**
readily emerges.

- One of the most important **spiritual truths** that you can learn is :
- Growth in the Christian life **requires** gaining a clearer understanding **of who God is** and **who I am.**
- Once you understand this it will drive you in desperation **to the cross of Jesus Christ.**

- This is why Paul gloried in the cross.
(**Galatians 6:14**):
- He saw God as the one who dwells in unapproachable light.
(**1 Timothy 6:16**)
- He saw himself as the chief of sinners,
- And he saw the cross as the place where he found mercy
(**1 Timothy 1:14-16**).

- None of us will seek God until we first become displeased with ourselves as sinners.
- We always see ourselves righteous, upright wise and holy.

- So when do we see ourselves otherwise.
- It is only when we see Jesus, the sinless one.
(**Hebrews 4:15**)
- We must first look into the face of God.
- Then look into ourselves.
 - Until one does that there is no hope.

- If you intend to get the full meaning of Hebrews and Jesus our High Priest.
- You must see the absolute holiness of God.

- And a deeper insight into your own **sinfulness** and **uncleanness.**
- Until then you feed on **milk** and not **meat.**
(**Hebrews 5:13-14**)

- This will lead you into a deeper appreciation of what Jesus did for you on the cross

- And a deeper appreciation of God's holiness

and your own sinfulness.

- Due to **pride** we see ourselves as **righteous** and **upright** and **wise** and **holy**.
- ***Pride goes before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.***
(**Proverbs 16:18**)
- ***Though the LORD is exalted, he takes note of the lowly, and recognizes the proud from far away.***
(**Psalm 138:6**)

- If men are not prideful sinners, separated from a holy God, then there is no need for priests.

- Romans 3:23

**For all have sinned,
and come short of
the glory of God.**

- What does Paul mean by the term:
“Glory of God”
- Humans were made in God's image
which was not true
of any other created thing.
(Genesis 1:26-27)

- Humans were **to fellowship** with the God.
- Evidenced by **Adam** & **Eve** talking with God.
(**Genesis 3:8**)
- But **sin** damaged the relationship.
 - **Now what?**

- God ordained a priesthood to bridge the gap

between man and God.

- You will find that story in the book of Exodus.

- What qualifies Jesus
to be our
high priest?
- That will be
our quest
for today.

- **# 1.** THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR HUMAN HIGH PRIESTS WERE TO **MEDIATE** BETWEEN MEN AND GOD, (**Hebrews 5:1**)
- **# 2** TO **SYMPATHIZE** WITH HIS FELLOW SINNERS, (**Hebrews 5:2-3**)
- **# 3** AND TO BE **CALLED** BY GOD TO THE OFFICE (**Hebrews 5:4**).

- **Why do we need a mediator?**
 - ***“Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”***
(Isaiah 59:2)

- **Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:**
(**Isaiah 59:1**)

- **Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression**
(**Isaiah 58:1**)

- No Jew was free to enter the Holy of Holies to meet directly with God.
 - Even the high priest could only go in once a year on the Day of Atonement,
 - And very carefully at that, or God would kill him instantly.
(Leviticus 16:2)

- The task of making offerings was reserved for the priests.
 - Israel's first king, Saul, took it upon himself to offer sacrifices,
 - And for this presumption, God removed the kingdom from Saul's descendants and gave it to David (**1 Samuel 13:1-14**).

- King Uzziah,
who was otherwise
a godly king,
presumed to take incense
and offer it before the Lord.

- As a result,
God struck him instantly
with leprosy
(**2 Chronicles 26:16-21**).

- The entire Jewish **sacrificial system,**
- But especially the **Day of Atonement,** underscored the problem **of human sinfulness** in the presence of the most holy God.

- Without the **appropriate sacrifice**, sinners could not approach God or be reconciled to Him.
- God designed all of this **to point ahead to the person** and **work** of Jesus Christ,
 - Who is the **Lamb of God**
- The **perfect** and **final sacrifice** for our sins.

- You and I
cannot be
reconciled to God
until we see
our great need
as a sinner.

- The gospel is not,
“If you’ve got
a few problems,
try Jesus.
He can help you.”

- That’s
NOT
how it works.

- **10** *Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.*
- **11**, *The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank you, that I am not as other men are, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.*
- **12**, *I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.*
(**Luke 18: 10-12**)

- He did not really go to pray to God.
 - He prayed with himself.
 - True prayer is always offered to God and to God alone.

- His whole attitude was not untypical of a Pharisee.
- It is on record that Rabbi Simeon ben Jocai once said,
 - ***"If there are only two righteous men in the world, I and my son are these two;***
 - ***If there is only one, I am he!"***

- The Pharisee did not really go to pray;
- He went to inform God how good he was.
- How many are like that today?

- There was a **tax-collector.**
- He stood afar off, and would not even lift his eyes to God.
- The **KJV** and **RSV** do not even do justice to his humility **for he actually prayed,**
- "***O God, be merciful to me***
--the sinner,"

- It is that awareness of your true condition that causes you to cry out, with the publican in Luke 18:13

- **“God, be merciful to me, the sinner”**

- Not merely a sinner,
 - But, like Paul
“Chief of sinners”
- And what did Jesus say?
 - "And," said Jesus,
*"it was that heart-broken,
self-despising prayer
which won him acceptance
before God."*

- **What** do we learn about from this parable?
 - **# 1** No man can pray who is **proud**.
- *The gate of heaven is so low that none can enter it save upon his knees.*
(W. Barclay)

- **# 2** No man who despises his brother can pray.

- *And it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.*
(**Genesis 4:8**)

- We must remember that we are all great sinners kneeling before the throne of God's mercy.

- When you set your live **beside the life of Jesus**

- And beside the **holiness of God,**

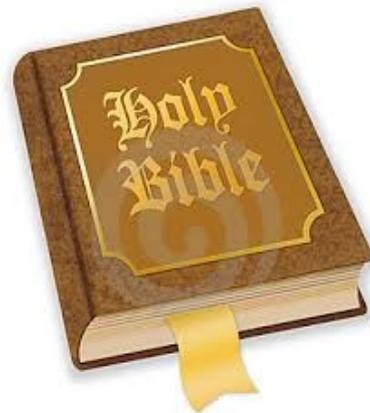
- All that is left to say is,
***"God be merciful to me
--the sinner."***

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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