



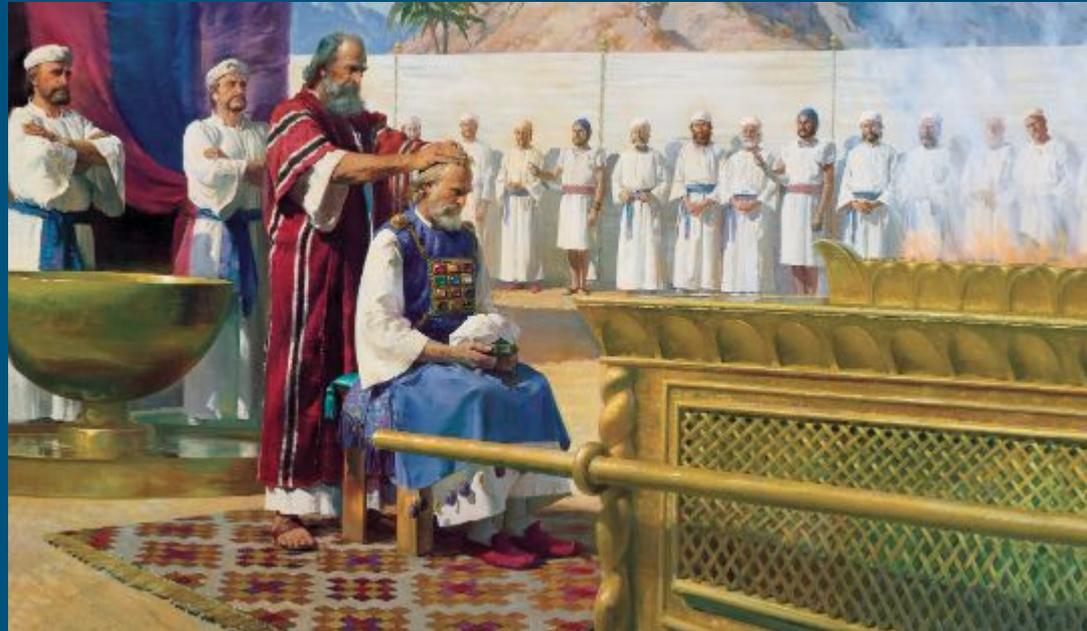
Hebrews 5:1-14

The Letter to the Hebrews Study Guide
Lesson 4



Review to This Point

- Christ is Superior in His person to
 - The Old Testament Prophets
 - To the Angels
 - To Moses
- And now...to Aaron - The first high priest of Israel
- This section will extend from Ch. 5:1 through Ch. 7:28



The Function of the High Priest

A middleman between man and God

1. Representation - “is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God”
2. Sacrifice - “to offer gifts and sacrifices for sin”
 - Particularly in mind here is the Day of Atonement
3. Access - The priest grants the one represented access to God



The Qualifications of the High Priest

1. Human Nature - the priest must be like what he is representing (i.e., a human representing a human before God)
2. Human Compassion - “deal gently” means one who can moderate his passions.
 - Part of the reason a priest should be so compassionate because he too was a sinner
3. Divine Appointment - A calling by God



The Qualifications of Christ (vv. 5 and 6)



1. Divine Appointment - The Son did not exalt Himself
 - Psalm 2:7 and Acts 13:33 combine to indicate that this reference to Christ being begotten is referring to the resurrection and ascension
 - “You are a priest” - Divine appointment
2. Human Compassion - As a man He experienced the deepest of human sufferings
3. Human Nature - you cannot represent that which to do not know and was therefore identified with mankind

“...and He was heard because of His piety”

- His prayer was that the Father “remove this cup from Me”
- He, as we know, did die on the cross
- He was not saved “from death” but He was saved “out of death”
- The Lord’s suffering was a learning experience - not that He lacked any form of wisdom - but that he gained experiential knowledge of human pain and suffering



Christ was made perfect

Perfect refers to obtaining a goal

1. Ceremonial - Means that Christ was installed as High Priest
2. Inner, personal aspect - “Means that Jesus went through a process of obedience and suffering so that He Himself might learn what it is like to carry out the task of a servant of the Lord to its end”
3. Official, vocational aspect - His perfection benefits those who come to Him



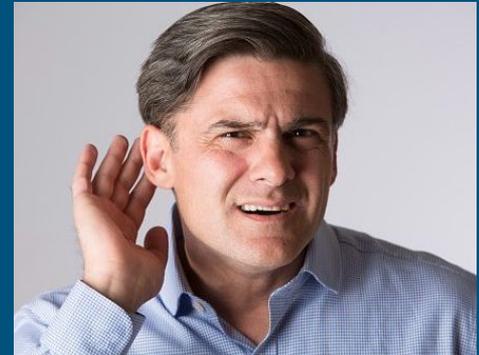
Salvation and Obedience

- The believer is in a lifelong process of being delivered from indwelling sin
- Verse 9 shows that obedience (and continued obedience) should mark every believer



Christ has Received Divine Approval

- After Jesus had been perfectly equipped by the suffering and trials of life to be our high priest, the Son ascended into heaven
- The topic of Melchizedek is introduced....but the topic of Melchizedek was complex topic that would difficult for them because they had become “dull of hearing”
- Their capacity to understand spiritual truth has been blunted and dulled



The Consequences of Spiritual Immaturity (5:11 - 6:20)

1. They do not act like adults - “By this time ought to be teachers”. That is they should be able to explain their faith by now
 - Oracles of God refer to those passages of the Old Testament that are fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus Christ
2. They do not eat like adults - they still harp on the elementary thoughts of Christ
3. They do not function like adults - Did not know how to make correct moral or doctrinal decisions

Knowledge of Bible + Time + Application = Growth



How do you grow up

- Grow by the constant practice of Scripture
- “Trained” is the verb from which get our word “gymnasium”
- All believers need to grow up so that they can discern doctrinal matters and moral choices
- All believers should want to grow up so that they can enter into deeper and richer blessing of knowing God
- Three stages
 - Infancy
 - Growth
 - Maturity

