

**I. Introduction and review.**

- A. Have you ever misplaced confidence in someone or something?
- B. This morning we are completing the major doctrinal portion of Hebrews.
- C. Characteristics of Hebrews.
  - 1. The occasion: Some Hebrew Christians were tempted to go back to Judaism.
  - 2. The theme: We gain access to God through the superior priesthood of Christ. **8:1**  
The Old Testament order is inadequate. 4:8 7:11 8:7
  - 3. The author uses key Old Testament texts to prove his assertions. Ps. 8:4-6 95:7-11 110:1,4 40:6-8 Jer. 31:31-34 Hab. 2:3-4 Pr. 3:11-12 Ex. 19-20 (and many others)
  - 4. The author intersperses strong exhortations and warnings. 2:1-4 3:7-19 5:11-6:20 10:26-29 12:15-17 12:25-29
- D. Overview of Hebrews.
  - 1. Introduction: God has decisively spoken in His Son. 1:1-3 *Final revelation.*
  - 2. The Son is greater than the angels. 1:1-2:18 Psalm 8:4-6  
Warning: Pay closer attention lest you drift away. 2:1-4
  - 3. The Son is greater than Moses (and brings a better rest). 3:1-4:13 Ps. 95:7-11  
Warning: If you harden your heart, you will not enter God's rest. 3:7-4:13
  - 4. The Son is greater than Aaron (the High Priest of the Old Covenant). 4:14-10:18
    - a. He is a greater High Priest, like Melchizedek. 5:1-10 7:1-28 Ps. 110:4  
Warning: Don't fall away from the truth about Christ. 5:11-6:20
    - b. He inaugurated a better covenant. 8:1-13 Jer. 31:31-34
    - c. He serves in a better sanctuary. 9:1-12 Leviticus 16
    - d. He offers a better sacrifices. 9:13-10:18 Ps. 40:6-8
  - 5. Concluding exhortations. 10:19-13:25 Hab. 2:3-4 Pr. 3:11-12 Ex. 19-20

**II. Jesus, your Priest-King, supersedes the Levitical priesthood. v. 11-14 Ps. 110:1**

- A. The Old Covenant priesthood was futile because their repeated sacrifices could never take away sins. v. 11
  - 1. The multiplicity of priests and offerings implies their imperfection. 10:1 7:27,23
  - 2. They stood, implying their work was never done. Dt. 10:8 18:5
- B. Christ offered Himself once for all time. v. 12a
  - 1. The New Covenant has but one High Priest and One Sacrifice.
  - 2. Jesus has decisively taken away the sins of His people by offering Himself.
- C. Christ is now seated at the right hand of the Father. v. 12b-13 Ps. 110:1  
What is the significance of Jesus' posture?
  - 1. Jesus sits because His work of perfecting us is done. v. 14,10 John 19:30 17:14
  - 2. He is exalted and enthroned reigning at God's right hand. 8:1 1:13 12:2 Ps. 16:11
  - 3. He awaits the final triumph over His enemies. 9:27-28 2:14 I Co. 15:24f I Jo. 3:8 Col. 2:14-15 Phil. 2:8-11 Rom. 16:20 Why the delay? II Pe. 3:9f
  - 4. What is Jesus doing now? 7:25 9:24
  - 5. Our author refers, yet again, to Psalm 110. 1:13 5:6 7:17 Acts 2:34-35 Mt. 22:44

- D. The result is that we have been perfected once and for all. v. 14**
1. Christ's work of making us fit for God's presence through the removal of our sin is complete.
  2. In what sense are we being sanctified? 2:11 9:13-14 10:10,29 13:12 I Th. 5:23
- E. What practical encouragement do we receive from the present posture of Jesus?**
1. The ground of your assurance is Christ's completed work. Rom. 8:31-34
  2. You have been perfected once for all.
  3. Because His work is complete, any human attempt to remove sin is not only unacceptable to God, but also blasphemously wrong.
  4. Do you sense God's ongoing work of sanctification going on in your life? Phil. 1:6
  5. One day the enemies of God will be crushed. Ro. 16:20

### III. Jesus brings you the final forgiveness of the New Covenant. v. 15-18 Jer. 31:31f

- A. The Spirit revealed the provisions of the New Covenant long ago. v. 15 Jer. 31:31-34**
1. Again the New Covenant is anticipated in the Old. v. 5-9, 12 Ps. 40:6-8 110:4
  2. The Holy speaks to *us* through the Scriptures. II Tim. 3:16-17 I Pe. 1:10-12
- B. The New Covenant promises better blessings. v. 16-17 8:8-13 Jer. 31:31-34**
1. The Law revealed an excellent way of life, but it couldn't give you the desire and power to stop sinning. Deutt. 6:8 Ex. 13:16 Mt. 23:5
  2. The New Covenant transforms you inwardly so that you desire holiness. v. 16 Rom. 3:10f 8:5-8 Eph. 2:1-3 I Cor. 6:9-11
  3. The Law did an outstanding job of reminding you of your sin, but it couldn't remove your guilt. 10:3
  4. The New covenant blots out your sin so that God no longer remembers it against you. v. 17
- C. Conclusion: Because the sins of God's people have been decisively put away, sacrificial offering for sin is no longer necessary. v. 18**
1. Our author is summarizing 4:14-10:18.
  2. The perfection God requires has been achieved in Christ.
  3. Because full forgiveness has been granted, no further offering for sin is required.
  4. Your sin is no longer a barrier between you and God. 9:14 I Jo. 2:2
  5. The revelation God has given through His Son is the final revelation. 1:1-3

### IV. Concluding applications:

In what are you placing your confidence that your sins are forgiven?

### Discussion questions

1. What problem was the book of Hebrews written to address?
2. What is the central theme of the book of Hebrews?
3. How does the author of Hebrews use the Old Testament?
4. How is Christ's offering superior to the sacrifices of the Old Testament priests? v. 11-13
5. What is the significance of Jesus' present posture? v. 12-13
6. What is the effect of Jesus' offering upon us? v. 14
7. What are the two senses in which we are sanctified (hint: past and present)? v. 10,14
8. How are the blessings of the New Covenant superior to the Old Covenant? v. 16-17
9. Why isn't any other offering for sin required? v. 18
10. How can this passage help a Christian who struggles with assurance?