

**John 17:6-10 & Selected Scriptures**  
*What a Priest We Have in Jesus! (pt. 2)*

**INTRO:** How can Holy Holy, Holy God dwell with His people (now and forevermore) when His people are so sinful? How can unclean sinners “draw near to God” and experience His glorious presence? How did people of God do so under the Old Covenant? How is the New Covenant new and better? How does all of this relate to Jesus, the Great High Priest and His perfect sacrifice?

Note Genesis 3; John 17:3; Psalm 16:11; Isaiah 6. Revelation 21:22; 22:1-5.

*3 Qualities One Must Possess to Serve as High Priest*

*(How does Jesus meet and exceed these qualifications? How is He a vastly superior high priest?)*

- 1) **To be one with the people the High Priest must be \_\_\_\_\_.**
  
- 2) **The High Priest must be \_\_\_\_\_ by God.**
  
- 3) **The High Priest must be compassionate and sympathetic with those He serves.**



**For Further Reflection/Application:** *Lord help us to be effectually doers of the Word!*

What does it look like in your life when you (often unknowingly) take your “Christian privilege” for granted? When redeemed sinners act as if Divine mercy, grace, and love is owed to us?

What happens when the sinfulness of sin and the absolute holiness of God are minimized? What are some real-life examples of this? Why do some “Christian” churches fall prey to avoiding and/or minimizing these twin truths? Leviticus (the sacrificial system, the Old Covenant priesthood, etc) will seem quite tedious and unnecessary if we fail to grasp the holiness of God and our own uncleanness in His sight. Sometimes we forget that without Christ we could never draw near to God and experience His glorious presence! How can God dwell with His people forever when His people are so sinful/unclean?

What are the benefits and blessings Christians enjoy because of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ? What are some practical implications of this theme (note the past two sermons)?

Christ desires His people to be devoted to Him; (as a kingdom of priests; wholly devoted to God and His kingdom purposes). Note Exodus 19:6 and the N.T. instructions in 1 Peter 1:13-16; 2:9-10.

Christ can empathize with our weaknesses perfectly and can provide exactly what we need (Heb. 4:15-16). He understands what you are going through! Draw near to God through Christ (dear Christian)!

It’s only through Christ that believers can enter the “true sanctuary/tabernacle” and enjoy the eternal delights of the heavenly city of God! Christ is our hope in life and death! He is our Great High Priest!

The O.T. burnt offering ascended as smoke before God. After His death (and perfect atonement for sin) Christ ascended to the right hand of God. See Ephesians 5:2; John 20:17; Hebrews 9:25. Jesus’ work as priestly intercessor (appears to) begin with His ascension. He lives to make intercession for His people!

Why do you suppose John 17 is often referred to as “Jesus’ High Priestly” prayer? Do you think this is a good description? Why or why not?

The High Priestly ministry of the ascended Christ is a major theme of Hebrews; (it’s alluded to over 20x). Many Christians today forget about the heavenly ministry of Christ! We lose sight that Christ is our Priest-King! That in Christ we have better \_\_\_\_\_. This is glorious, gospel truth!

Hebrews assumes that the original audience was very familiar with the sacrificial system within the Old Covenant. Note last Sunday’s introductory sermon. Some believers were being tempted to lose heart, look back, and/or fall away! Hebrews was written to prevent that from happening!

In Hebrews, Christ is presented as an all-sufficient, unblemished, sacrifice (Heb. 9:14. 27-28). Christ’s superior offering takes away sin; Hebrews 9:13, 26. Jesus’ sacrifice has greater efficacy! He died, once and for all! A superior Priest offers a perfect sacrifice and establishes a new and better covenant (replacing the Aaronic priesthood). Jesus is better! Note Galatians 3:10f. How does the book of Hebrews keep believers from losing heart, looking back, and/or from falling away? God ordains means that accomplish His appointed end. The warning passages in Hebrews keep true believers from apostasy!

What is the relationship between the intercessory ministry of Christ and the Old Testament High Priest? (note last Sunday’s sermon). How is Christ’s high priesthood far better?

As man Christ represented His people before God. As the eternal Son of God, He represents God before men. He is the perfect Mediator. The Great(est) High Priest. Jesus, there is no one like You! Note Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:10; 17-18; 4:15; 5:7-10.

Five Reasons why Jesus' high priesthood is superior to the Aaronic and Levitical Priesthood.

(4/16/23 sermon)

1) Jesus' high priesthood is vastly superior because He enters a vastly better sanctuary.

(Hebrews 9)

2) Jesus' priesthood is superior because He's presently and permanently SEATED at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven."

(Hebrews 8:1-2; 10:11f)

3) Jesus' priesthood is superior because He's an eternal priest who lives forever!

(Hebrews 7:23-25)

4) Jesus' High Priesthood is vastly superior because He alone is sinless, undefiled, and perfectly righteous!

5) Jesus' Priesthood is Vastly Superior is because He alone offers Himself as a perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice to atone for the sins of His people!

(Hebrews 7:23-35; 9:24-28; 10:1-18; 1 Peter 3:18)

John 17:1-5 Sermon Outline

I) The *Soli Christo Gloria* Petition (John 17:1, 5; see 3/12/23 sermon)

II) The Father's Three-Pronged Gift (John 17:2; see 3/19 sermon)

III) The Salvation Explanation (John 17:3; see 3/26 sermon)

IV) The Foundation of Prayer (John 17:4-5; see 4/2 sermon)

3 Personal and Practical Implications of John 17:1-3

1) *Eternal Life is a gift of Christ rooted in the Father's love for the Son;* (John 17:2; Eph. 1:3-14).

2) *Eternal Life entails a personal relationship with our Heavenly Father and with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*(John 17:3)

3) *Eternal Life allows us to live how we were originally made to live in communion with our Creator;* (John 17:3).

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