

## Part II, Week Seven: More Melchizedek

### Digging Deeper

Read Hebrews 7:23-27

At the time that Hebrews was written, the priesthood of Israel was likely still in full operation in the magnificent temple complex, and during the main feasts each year the city of Jerusalem was packed to the rafters with those who journeyed to participate in the sacrificial system. The challenge for the original readers of Hebrews (and for us) is to see the priesthood of Jesus, which is invisible to human eyes, as it really is and orient our lives around that invisible reality.

Despite the impressive structures and outward displays of the priests in the temple, notice how the limitations and shortcomings of the sacrificial system are pointed out in v. 23 and vs. 27-28. The priests of the covenant God established through Moses were temporary (because they would eventually die) and weak (because they were sinners too and had to repeatedly offer sacrifices for their own sins as well as for those of others). By contrast, the priesthood of Jesus endures forever and consists of only one sacrifice. Jesus offered Himself as a perfect, once-for-all sacrifice for the sins of everyone. That sacrifice was sufficient payment for all sin for all time and never needs to be repeated.

But v. 25 also describes an ongoing priestly ministry that Jesus carries out, as “He always lives to make intercession.” Intercession for who? For US! He is able to “save to the uttermost”, that we might be eternally and completely acceptable to God because we drew near to God through faith in the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest.

### Bible Study Questions

Read Hebrews 7:20-28

1. Our writer again makes a reference to Psalm 110:4. How many times has our writer referenced this verse so far in Hebrews?

2. Why is it important for our writer to note that God swore with an oath?
3. How does God's oath in Psalm 110:4 speak to the ministry of Jesus today?
4. How has Jesus become the guarantee of the New Covenant? What covenant is our writer referring to? (See Jeremiah 31:31-34) How wonderful to know we have a covenant keeping God!
5. Why is the fact that Jesus lives forever important for us as believers as far as Jesus' intercession for us? See Romans 8:24; Luke 22:32; and John 17.
6. List and discuss the importance of the five attributes of Jesus listed in verse 26.

## Group Application Questions

1. Have you ever felt like running away and hiding from God because of guilt over sin? How can thinking about the continuing priestly ministry of Jesus Christ give you confidence to approach God and confess your sin?
2. The things of this world surround our senses continually and can sometimes cause us to lose focus on the reality of who we are in Christ and what our purpose and destiny is. Are there any areas in your life where the priorities and values of this world have caused you to pursue things which are temporary and fleeting at the expense of following Jesus with your whole heart?

## Prayer

*Ps. 143:1 "Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief."*

Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.

\*Overview was adapted from Richland Hills Community Church

\*Questions were adapted from "Hebrews, An Anchor for the Soul" by Kent Hughes and "The NIV Application Commentary" by George H Guthrie.

