

Hebrews - Jesus the Final Word: The Advocate

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Hebrews 7:1-27

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Reflection & Discussion

Hebrews was written as an attempt to help real, struggling people

The writer is trying to help them (and us) to be free to discover new life in Jesus

*How have you recognized yourself thus far in Hebrews?

*What are you finding about what it means to follow Jesus from this book?

Jesus bypassed and replaced the priesthood of Israel, rendering it irrelevant

Read and discuss Hebrews 7:11-12; 18-19 (NIV)

¹¹ If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹² For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also...

¹⁸ ...The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

*What makes the old system weak and useless?

*What does this passage say is what God actually cares about?

*When have you seen or experienced self-focused obedience – keeping the law but not being close to God?

Jesus lives to intercede for us

Read and discuss Hebrews 7:24-27 (NIV)

²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

*How do you perceive of what Jesus interceding for us with God looks like?

*How is the argument Jesus makes on our behalf about justice rather than mercy?

There are 2 approaches to growth and becoming who God created us to be: One feels right but is actually wrong and the other feels wrong but is actually right

One: Payback presumes that something is still owed

The Other: Starting to trust what Jesus has accomplished for us; agreeing even if we don't feel like it

*Why does trying harder, wallowing in shame, and trying to add to the work of Jesus feel so right? How is this actually arrogant?

*Have you experienced quieting insecurities from focusing on what Jesus has done instead your own effort? What happens to us as we build confident connection with God?

*What is the Spirit saying to you about experiencing God vs. performing for God?

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