

The Preeminent Priest

Text: Hebrews 7:20-28

Date: 8-18-24

I. The Preeminence of Christ based on a permanent oath (Heb. 7:20-21)

When God swears by an oath it shows His truthfulness, His certainty, and His permanence. His word is truth. His word will come to pass. His word is eternal. Jesus Christ is an eternal, unchangeable High Priest based on God's oath.

II. The preeminence of Jesus Christ based on God's pledge (Heb. 7:22).

As guarantor Jesus Christ guarantees that all obligations of what is to come will be fulfilled. He guarantees that God will keep His word. He guarantees that those who believe will enjoy all of its blessings.

Why is the new covenant better? The new covenant is better because Jesus Christ is the guarantor of it. He is a better priest based on His qualifications, His resurrection, His unchangeableness, and His eternity. He guarantees all of the provision will be fulfilled. And God's pledge is His Son who obeyed fully on this earth, ascended alive back to Heaven, and is our High Priest forever within the heavenly veil. With His own blood He has testified and guaranteed that the new is better than the old. **Trust your hope in the One who is our pledge! As High Priest, He guarantees all the aspects of the new covenant.**

III. The preeminence of Jesus Christ based on His position (Heb. 7:23-25).

****His position continues**

****His position is changeless**

****His position is committed**

Jesus Christ can finish His work to the end.

This is not redemptive work. This is delivering His children safely and completely as they enter into the full rest of salvation and all the spiritual heavenly inheritance.

A person may argue, if Jesus' work of redemption is finished, then why does He need to keep interceding for us? When we sin, He goes before the Father on our behalf where every single time the Father knows that every sin has been paid in full. Jesus Christ doesn't have to pay for our sin. His intercession before the Father is a consistent reminder and critical element that our sins are on His account. His work is done for His death has paid the price. Dane Ortlund in his book *Gentle and Lowly* says this about the question of why Jesus intercedes even though His redemptive work is complete: "The answer is that intercession applies what the atonement accomplished. Christ's present heavenly intercession on our behalf is a reflection of the fullness and victory and completeness of His earthly work, not a reflection of anything lacking in His earthly work" (79). Jesus Christ continually applies the atonement to our lives.

IV. The preeminence of Jesus Christ based on His perfection (Heb. 7:26-28).

Jesus Christ is:

- **Holy:** His character and nature are in and of themselves holy.
- **Harmless:** He is morally pure and upright. Nothing can be brought as a charge against Him that will legitimately stick. He was always harmless, never lashing out in word or deed unless righteousness warranted it. His actions show no malice or misdeeds. He does no evil.

- **Undefiled:** Jesus Christ has never once stained or cheapened anything, nor have those characteristics ever been shown in His character. He is perfectly free from all moral blemish
- **Separate from sinners:** In His character, nature, and His current priestly work He is fully separate when it comes to anything sinful. While He was among sinners, He was neither of this world nor was any sinful charge brought against Him.
- **Made higher than the heavens:** Christ's current ministry