

Hebrews Week 4

Opening Prayer

Review Previous Three Sessions

- Hebrews 1:1 - 2:4. The preacher makes the case for Jesus being greater than angels and warns against “drifting away” from Christ.
- Hebrews 2:5 – 4:16. Jesus is greater than Moses because he is the Son of God. As the Son, he became human to be our perfect priest. Unlike the Israelites stuck in the wilderness, we can enter God’s rest by faith in Christ as High Priest who allows us to draw near to God.
- Hebrews 5:1 – 6:12. Since we have a perfect High Priest, we should move on to maturity as an expression of gratitude for the grace made available through the sacrifice of Christ.

Watch Video

- Why were priests important in ancient religions, and why do they continue to be important in many religions today?
- If “the blood of Christ . . . cleanses our conscience from dead works in order that we might serve a living God” (Hebrews 9:14), how do you think about discharging your own commission as a minister of the living God?

Reading and Discussing Hebrews 7:1-25

- Read Genesis 14:17-24. What does this passage teach us about Melchizedek? What does he do?
- Read Psalm 110, which contains the only other mention of Melchizedek in the Old Testament. Who is Psalm 110 about, and why does the psalm-singer mention Melchizedek?

- What claims does the preacher make about Melchizedek? Why is each of these claims important to what the preacher says about Jesus?
- Why does the preacher so urgently claim Jesus “can completely save those who are approaching God through him” (verse 25)?

Reading and Discussing Hebrews 8:1-13

- According to the preacher, in what ways does Jesus’s presence with God in heaven make Jesus a better priest than those who serve on earth?
- How does the preacher quote Jeremiah 31:31-34 to define the “better promises” (verse 6) God makes through Jesus?

Reading and Discussing Hebrews 9:18-28 & 10:1-18

- “And like the first covenant, so the new covenant must be put into effect by means of the shedding of blood.” (9:18) How comfortable are you thinking and talking about the blood of Christ in your own faith? Why? How does the image comfort or challenge you?
- Why does the preacher say the shedding of blood is necessary? (9:22)
- According to the preacher, why is the sacrifice of Christ vastly superior to the sacrifices of the Old Covenant?

Closing Prayer

In grace, O God, you claim us for your service. Send us out now in the strength of your Spirit, not only to proclaim your glory with our lips but also and especially to embody it in our lives, for that is the role you have prepared for us: obeying you as did your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.