

WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL
Fundamentals of the Faith
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LESSON #29 — JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST, PART 2

But let's look also in the 24th verse of this ninth chapter of the book of Hebrews for another passage on this subject. Hebrews 9, verse 24. "For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." Here's the symbolism that we were talking about, as we looked at the diagram on the board. God is saying through the Hebrew writer, Jesus didn't enter into that physical temple, that temple that had two compartments, that temple that was associated with the Old Testament system. That was just a copy. That was just a shadow of the true, the better place, and Jesus entered into heaven, itself, not into some physical temple. And notice, he says, that he entered into heaven to be in the presence of God for us, representing us, interceding for us, making mediation for us, and being our advocate. What a wonderful thought. We have as our high priest, Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, and He's in heaven for us, this very moment, and every moment of every day. What a wonderful blessing it is to have Jesus as our faithful and merciful High Priest.

Then let's look in the 10th chapter, in verses 18 through 24. Hebrews 10, verses 18 through 24. "Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin. Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works."

What a remarkable passage of scripture this is. The Hebrew writer tells us where remission of sins is, there is no more offering for sin. Jesus made that final sacrifice once and for all, never to be repeated again. And because He did that, in verse 19, he says, brethren have, faithful Christians have, boldness to enter into heaven, into the Holiest, the Most Holy Place, heaven above. Is that because of our own righteousness, that we have that boldness? Is it because of our arrogance and thinking that we're so great that we can enter into heaven on our merits? That's not what God says. It's, we have boldness by the blood of Jesus Christ, by the power, the soul-cleansing power of the precious flow from the head, the hands, the feet, and the side of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. That's how we have boldness, confidence, to enter the Holiest, to enter heaven. And he says it was by a new and living way. Jesus blazed the trail to heaven for us. He cut the path through the wilderness of sin, and showed us the way into heaven. And He consecrated, or set it apart that way, by the veil, that is by His flesh, by coming to live a perfect life, without sin in the flesh. And by dying and being victorious over sin and death, He blazed the trail for you and for me, to heaven, and we ought to follow in His steps, wherever He went.

And we have a High Priest over the house of God. The house of God is the family of God, the church of God (1 Timothy, chapter 3, verse 15). So we have a great High Priest over the Lord's church, that is Jesus, the Christ. And on the basis of these things, the Hebrew writer says we can draw near to God, with hearts that are filled with assurance. Assurance that comes from faith, faith in what the Father has done for us, in and through His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

And notice in verse 22, he says that one of the things that we have confidence in, that our hearts are sprinkled from an evil conscience. Have we seen a passage of scripture that has uses similar language? What about 1 Peter, chapter 3, verse 21? Where God talks about baptism now saves us, not the washing of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God. This is a clear reference by the Hebrew writer to baptism in water for the forgiveness of sins, cleansing our conscience. That's no accident, then, at the end of verse 22, he says, our bodies washed with pure water, a clear reference again, to baptism. So on the basis of our obedience to the gospel, and God's love and mercy and grace, and our continued faithfulness, we have assurance. And he says, we need to then, hold fast, the confession of our hope without wavering. Don't turn back to the world. Don't turn back to the pleasures of the world, or the things that the world would try to charm us with. But hold fast, cling to that hope that we have as Christians, and don't turn back. And remember, he says in the end of verse 23, He who promised is faithful. God is dependable. We can trust Him. We can count upon Him. We know that He will do what He has said.

And then verse 24, again, the Hebrew writer exhorts us. "Let us consider one another in order to stir each other up unto love, and to good works." We ought to because we have this common salvation. We have this boldness, this confidence, this assurance based upon the blood of Jesus. We ought to exhort each other, and we ought to provoke each other, in the good sense of that word. Stir each other up to love and good works. That's something that the Hebrew writer says we ought to do, because of all of these things that he's mentioned in this wonderful passage of scripture, in the 10th chapter of the book of Hebrews.

So we have a great, merciful, faithful High Priest, in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And there's something else that we need to think about while we're talking about Him as our great High Priest. And that is, that each Christian is a priest. There is no special priesthood system, as we see in Roman Catholicism, and the Episcopalian religion, and other religions. And again, we don't call those names to be unkind or hateful. We love those people. We call those names to point out that there is a difference between what they teach and practice and what God says in His Word. There is no special priesthood system. Each Christian is a priest. You say, "Would you please prove that to me?" Well, we'd like to look at several passages of Scripture which document that fact.

The first one is in 1 Peter, chapter 2, verse 5. 1 Peter, chapter 2, verse 5. "You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God, through Jesus Christ." Here, God through Peter addresses Christians. We are those who are living stones, that is, we are members of the spiritual body of Christ, of the house of God, the church of our Lord. And he talks about us as those who are a holy priesthood. That is, those who are separated from sin, and the life of continual sin. And He says we are a priesthood. Every Christian is a priest. And we have to offer sacrifices through

some man, right? Like is taught in the religious world? Wrong. That's not what God says. We can offer sacrifices that are acceptable to God, through whom? What does the verse say? Through Jesus Christ, our great and merciful High Priest.

What a privilege it is to be a Christian, to be a priest, to be one who can approach the Father, through [His] beloved Son, Jesus, offering up our spiritual sacrifices. Our life, our thoughts, our words, our deeds, offered up in love to God and His beloved Son. So each Christian is a priest. This passage is not addressed to some special group, but to those who have the same like precious faith, as Peter, those Christians, then, and today.

And then in verse 9, of this same chapter, God says, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." So, God addresses Christians as a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, kings, if you will, and priests, that is, through our relationship with Jesus. And we are priests who can offer up sacrifices. Who was this addressed to? Some special group? No, he said, those who have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light. Who is that? Each Christian. Each person who responds obediently to God's call extended in the gospel of His Son (2 Thessalonians, chapter 2, verse 14). So this tells us the same thing that we saw in verse 5. Each individual Christian is a priest.

And the same is seen in the book of Revelation, in chapter 1, verse 5 and 6. Revelation 1, verse 5 and 6. "And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." Here's the apostle John, and John says that Christians had been made to be kings and priests by the Lord Jesus Christ. Who does this apply to, John? Those who Jesus loved and washed in His own blood. Who is that? Those who have responded obediently to the gospel, including being immersed in water, so that their sins can be washed away by the blood of Jesus. Each individual Christian is a priest, and we can offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

So Jesus is our Great High Priest, the one who represents us before God, the one who gave His own body and His own blood, as the once for all sacrifice for sin. Presented that sacrifice in heaven, and obtained eternal redemption for us. And gives us boldness to enter into heaven if we'll follow His path that He blazed through the offering of His body and His blood and His perfect life upon this earth. What a joy it is to be a Christian, a priest, who is under our great High Priest, Jesus, the Christ.