

THE AUTHOR OF ETERNAL SALVATION  
Heb. 5:8, 9

Intro: The choir in this cantata tonight has turned our thoughts to the death of Christ, and that which the Lord accomplished for us through His death. The words have spoken of:

- 1) Our deliverance from sin's penalty.
- 2) Our deliverance from death, and the fear of death.
- 3) Our deliverance from Satan so that he can no longer "strike us."
- 4) All of the joy that should be in our hearts, and all of the worship that should be turned toward Him.

In the minutes which remain let me turn your attention to two verses in Heb. 5 which speak of our Lord as "the author of eternal salvation"--right along with what we have heard from the choir.

I do not always go to alliteration, but I want to tonight. Perhaps it will help you to remember what we have here. Think of these four words in connection with vv. 8, 9:

- 1) The Person.
- 2) The Passion.
- 3) The Perfection.
- 4) The Power.

I. THE PERSON: "though He were a Son."

This describes the Lord Jesus Christ. It tells us what He always has been. He is equal in Deity with the Father. He came to be our High Priest. It is difficult for us to see Him as a man. It is even more difficult to see what He experienced here on earth. BUT WE MUST KNOW WHO HE WAS IF WE ARE TO HAVE A PROPER APPRECIATION FOR WHAT HE DID.

It is on this note that the writer of Hebrews began his Epistle. Cf. Heb. 1:2.

II. THE PASSION: "Yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered."

It is called learning because this was a new experience for the Son of God. And he went through it all. He was not spared from any of what it meant to meet man's need. The first Adam could have maintained life by obedience, but he disobeyed; the Lord Jesus had to rescue man from death through obedience to the Father. Cf. Rom. 5:19,

"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

How did He suffer? Cf. Heb. 2:9, 18; 9:26. All that led up to the Cross, and all that He experienced on the Cross comes before us here--His suffering and His death!

### III. THE PERFECTION: "And being made perfect."

This has nothing to do with His moral perfection. If He had not been the Holy One, the Son of God, His death would have meant no more than the death of Stephen.

But He became "perfect" in the sense that, following His suffering, He was fully qualified to be our Savior.

In the Greek translation of the OT we have a very interesting use of the words which we have in these two verses in Heb. 5. The words are "learned" and "perfect." Our Lord is presented here as a learner, and then as a fully qualified teacher--that is the illustration.

Think of our Lord as in training for the priesthood. Following His Passion, He was raised and exalted to the Father's right hand, and NOW HE IS FULLY QUALIFIED TO DO ALL THAT A PRIEST SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO--TO BRING ABOUT THE FORGIVENESS OF MAN'S SINS! No one ever before has achieved such a place--nor since that time!

### IV. THE POWER: "He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

As "the Author," He is the original and only Cause for salvation. Apart from Him and what He has done there could be no salvation.

But note . . .

It is for "all," but only for "all them that obey him." We immediately say, But I thought that salvation was by believing, not obeying.

Do not give up that position too fast. What does this mean? IT MEANS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS NOT ONLY THE SAVIOR, BUT GOD HAS GIVEN HIM THE AUTHORITY TO SAY HOW MEN CAN BE SAVED. IF YOU OBEY WHAT HE SAID TO DO, THEN YOU WILL BE SAVED; IF YOU DO NOT OBEY WHAT HE SAID TO DO, THEN YOU WILL NOT BE SAVED!

What did He say? John 3:14-18. Also John 14:6. Cf. John's introduction in John 1:11-13. Cf. Peter in Acts 10:43, Paul in Acts 16:31, even James in Jas. 2:18.

Concl: How wonderful to know that what He did only needs to be done once, and what we do in receiving Him as our Savior also only needs to be done once--because the salvation which He gives is "eternal"--never ending, never ceasing to be.

It is only as we come to understand what it cost Him to be our Savior that we will ever come to understand how hopeless it would have been for us to try to meet our own need. But the greatness of His work is seen in the facts that:

- 1) It will never need to be repeated.
- 2) It is for all--whether Jews or Gentiles, etc.
- 3) It is eternal.