Jesus Our Great High Priest
An Exposition of the Book of Hebrews

Building on the Foundation
Lesson 7
Hebrews 6:1-12

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
February 12, 2017
Main subject: Melchizedek Priesthood & New Covenant

Requirements for the High Priest
- Deity – higher than angels
- Humanity – lower than angels
- Made perfect through suffering
- A better covenant

The outcome: an Heir and an inheritance (kingdom)

A word to be heard
Building on the Foundation

▶ A pastoral message
▶ Purification and sanctification (1:3; 13:20-21)
▶ ”I urge you, brethren, bear with this word of exhortation.” (13:22)
▶ 5 digressions + 3½ chapters of application
  • 2:1-4 – pay closer attention . . . do not neglect so great a salvation
  • 3:7-4:13 – Hear His voice and do not harden your hearts
  • 5:11-6:20 – Press on to maturity/perfection/completeness
  • 10:26-39 – A terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire
  • 12:25-29 – Our God is a consuming fire
Building on the Foundation

- A Jewish audience – Hebrews
- A mixed multitude – infant believers and unbelievers
- A community confused about the O.T. and the N.T.
- Need to abandon the Law (7:19; 8:13; 10:1)
Hebrews Outline

1. Introduction (1:1-4)
2. Jesus Christ, God/Man (1:5-2:18)*
3. Jesus Christ, Apostle of our confession (3:1-4:13)*
4. Jesus Christ, High Priest of our confession (4:14-8:6)*
5. Jesus Christ, Mediator of a better covenant (8:7-10:18)
6. Jesus Christ, Author of a new and better way (10:19-13:19)**

*Pauses for warning and exhortation
Building on the Foundation

- Introduction: Dull of hearing (5:11-14)
- The plan (6:1-3)
- Warning: A special case (6:4-8)
- A word of encouragement and comfort (6:9-12)
Dull of Hearing (5:11-14)

- A pause from teaching about the order of Melchizedek
- Infants – mature – teachers

- Food for infants – milk
  - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; 1 Peter 2:2 – necessary for growth
  - Elementary teaching about the Christ (6:1)
    - Repentance from dead works and faith toward God (Heb 9:14)
    - Instructions about washing and laying on of hands (9:10; Acts 8:17)
    - Instructions about the resurrection of the dead and judgment

- Food for the mature – solid food
  - The word of righteousness
  - Discern good and evil
What to do? (6:1-3)

- Compare with Jude 3 – a change of course
- The plan for Hebrews – press on to maturity (6:2)
- “If God permits” – “All scripture is profitable” (4:12)
- 1 Corinthians 2:2-5; 9-16; Romans 1:16
- “And this we will do, if God permits.”
A Special Case (6:4-8)

- A worst case – in danger of being burned!
- “Once enlightened” . . . and now “have fallen away”
  - Once been enlightened (10:32, 39)
  - Have tasted the heavenly gift (Eph 2:8-9; 2 Tim 1:5-6)
  - Have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:12)
  - Have tasted the good word of God (2 Tim 3:16-17)
  - Have tasted the powers of the world to come (Matt 24:30; Eph 1:18-21)
- The perseverance of the saints
  - A Divine work assured (Phil 1:6; John 10:28-29; Rom 8:38-39)
- This case: “Impossible to renew them again to repentance”
  - “crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame”
  - 2 Peter 2:20-22 – a dog returns to his own vomit, and a pig to the mire
A Parable (6:7-8)

- The soil drinks the rain – blessing of God (Isa 55:10-11)
- Fruitful response
  - Useful to those for whose sake it is tilled
  - Receives a blessing from God
- Thorns and thistles
  - Worthless (Isaiah 64:6)
  - Close to being cursed
  - Impossible for man but possible for God (Matthew 19:20-26)
  - Ends up being burned (12:29)
Encouragement and Comfort (6:9-12)

- Convinced of better things concerning you
  - Admits to the harshness of his message
  - Sees things that accompany salvation
  - More importantly, God sees!

- Fundamental understanding is weak but not absent
  - Faith
  - Love for God
  - Works – ministering to the saints
  - Patience/hope to the end

- We desire each of you show diligence
- Not be dull (of hearing and imitating)
A Pastoral Warning

- Things that accompany salvation
- Love toward His name
- A blessing from God
- Show diligence – do not be dull of hearing!
- John 17:17 – “Sanctify them through thy truth . . .”