

“HOLD TIGHT & GROW UP!”

(Hebrews 4:14 – 5:14)

October 29, 2017

The book of Hebrews, is a Balance between comfort and exhortation. The author offers a list of comparisons and contrasts between the first priest and the Priest who has an everlasting priesthood, Jesus.

I. The REQUIREMENTS in regards to God's priests

A. COMPARISONS:

1. Both were SELECTED by God from among men

Pastors should only serve when they have a CLEAR call by God to enter that role in the church.

“Only pursue the ministry as a vocation if the pull is so strong and the call is so clear that you cannot do anything else.”
-Pastor Mike

2. Both were appointed to REPRESENT people before God

3. Both were to PRAY and offer up SACRIFICES

Before Jesus the Temple's main business was sacrifice.

4. Both were to demonstrate COMPASSION

The High Priest needed forgiveness ALSO.

5. Both experienced infirmities of the FLESH

Jesus suffered all of the same infirmities as we, but never succumbed to temptation because he ALONE was sinless.

B. CONTRASTS:

1. Only Christ was called God's SON

Jesus has a unique relationship with the Father (Sonship).

2. Only Christ was given an EVERLASTING priesthood

Whether through retirement or death, every minister on earth is in an INTERIM role. Jesus' ministry will last for all eternity.

3. Only Christ was made a priest in the order of MELCHIZEDEK

When Abram gained Lot's release, we read:

Then Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. Genesis 14:18-20

This priest of God, selected for that role before the Jewish people existed, before a Temple was designed, before the Law, served God and acted out the priestly ROLE in fascinating ways: he gave them bread and wine, a foreshadowing of the Lord's Supper, he blessed people in God's name, and he accepted tithes on God's behalf (pre-Law!).

“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

Psalm 110:4

By citing Melchizedek, our author shows that Christ's new priesthood is SUPERIOR to the old Levitical order.

4. Only Christ cried out to God in GETHSEMANE

It was an honest prayer, but one that concluded, “Yet not what I will, but what you will.” Perfect submission!

II. The REBUKE in regard to God's people

A. The FRUSTRATION

1. The author has much to say, but his readers are SLOW to learn

Some people are eager to learn, and they are a blessing to their teacher.

Other people simply don't care. In fact:

2. They SHOULD be teachers, but still need to be taught

Some have had the Scriptures long enough that they ought to be teaching OTHERS by now.

B. The FOOD

1. Baby believers can only be fed spiritual MILK

Babies can't yet stomach solid food. New Christians need to learn the simple, direct truths of God before diving into the DEEPER theological questions.

2. Mature believers can easily digest SOLID spiritual food

One of the marks of a mature Christian is having a strong grip on the Bible. How sad it is, when a Christian does not know, or even care to know, what GOD has to say to them!

“If you want to feed a person for a day, give them a fish. If you want to feed them for life, teach them to fish.”

The most important decision you can make for yourself, after deciding to accept and follow Jesus as Savior, is to decide and follow through on devouring his Word, the Bible.

We are blessed. Let us be a blessing to OTHERS.