

# Unique

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| Scripture:         |  |
| Announcements:     |  |
| Scripture Reading: |  |
| RECAP:             | <p>Last week we talked about Jesus and His indestructible life.</p> <p>—We saw that Jesus differs for the Levitical priest because their priesthood ended when their lives ended; Christ’s priesthood does not end because His life never ends.</p> <p>—We saw that Jesus is not just the priest for a certain type of people group but for all people who would believe in Him.</p> <p>—We saw our limitation and inadequacies last week and that they point us to our desperate need for Christ in our lives; not just at one moment in our lives but in every moment of our lives.</p> <p>—We also saw that Jesus is the only way to perfection, to fellowship with God, to a right relationship with God, and to an indestructible life.</p> |
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| INTRODUCTION:      | <p>Today, we will look at how the law is deficient to save.</p> <p>—We will see that there is only one to rely one, to hope in.</p> <p>—We will see the secret ingredient to change.</p> <p>—We will see a guarantee that God has made with those that are believers in Christ.</p>  |
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| Passage Begins     |  |

| Scripture:  |  |
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| <p><b>Hebrews 7:11–21 (NASB95):</b> 11 Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?</p> <p>12 For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also.</p> <p>13 For the one concerning whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar.</p> <p>14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.</p> <p>15 And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek,</p> <p>16 who has become such not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life.</p> <p>17 For it is attested of Him,<br/>“You are a priest forever<br/>According to the order of Melchizedek.”</p> <p><u>18 For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness</u></p> <p><u>19 (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.</u></p> <p><u>20 And inasmuch as it was not without an oath</u></p> <p><u>21 (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him,</u><br/><u>“The Lord has sworn</u><br/><u>And will not change His mind,</u><br/><u>‘You are a priest forever’ ”);</u></p> | <p>So last week we covered verses 13-17 which focused on Christ’s everlasting nature in contrast to the Levitical priests limited life.</p> <p>— We are now going to focus on the law.</p> <p>— — As we started to touch on last week, the law is not able to produce eternal life.</p> <p>— — — Christ in His priesthood, by His indestructible life, is able to proved eternal life. The law is unable to produce eternal life but point to the fact that we don’t have eternal life and we need Christ for that eternal life.</p> <p>— — — — So the author tells the readers that this former law which was held in high esteem was not the way to eternity with God, but it pointed to the one who was the way to eternity with God.</p> |
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| Scripture: |  |
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|            | <p>The author is pointing out the short falls of the law.</p> <p>— The former means: the introductory or that which precedes.</p> <p>— — William Hendriksen wrote, “The implication is that the introductory regulation is temporary and will be succeeded by that which is permanent....a tentative regulation that must yield to something that is abiding.”</p> <p>— — — Paul points out the deficiencies in the law: <b>READ: Romans 8:3–4 (NASB95): 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.</b></p> <p>— — — — The law on its own is weak and God had to prove something greater than the law to accomplish the task.</p> |
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|            | <p>So, the law is called weak, useless, and made nothing perfect in our passage.</p> <p>— What does this mean?</p> <p>— — Weak and useless tells of ineffective.</p> <p>— — — We are told that the law is ineffective in a sense and that it does not have the effectiveness as Christ.</p> <p>— — — — Our hope should not reside in living by the law but our hope is better placed in Christ because Christ is the permanent that replaced the introductory.</p> <p>— — — — — The Levitical priests were temporary, their sacrifices were the remission of sins, inadequate for atoning for sins, and the Law was introductory giving way to Christ who provides permanency in all of those things.</p>  |
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| Scripture: |   |
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|            | <p>If the law is “weak,” “useless,” or “made nothing perfect,” how can it be declared perfect as several verses have?</p> <p>—<b>READ: Psalm 19:7 (NASB95): 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.</b></p> <p>—<b>READ: Romans 7:12 (NASB95): 12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.</b></p> <p>— — Albert Mohler wrote, “The law is perfect in the sense that it does all that God designed it to do, but it does not lead to salvation. Only Christ can do that.</p> <p>— — — If we look ahead of the Romans 7 passage we will see the full idea of Paul about the law that he wrapped up in, “the law is holy.”</p> <p>— — — —<b>READ: Romans 7:7–11 (NASB95): 7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “You shall not covet.” 8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead. 9 I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; 10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; 11 for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.</b></p> |
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| Scripture: |   |
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|            | <p>Paul explains that he would not know his sin without the law.</p> <p>—He is right! Without the law we would not know the brokenness, the deadness of our hearts.</p> <p>— — The law is perfect and adequate for its purpose but its purpose was not salvation.</p> <p>— — — It is still profitable and performing its responsibilities perfectly today; revealing sin and showing our desperate need for salvation.</p> <p>— — — — Mohler wrote, “The law, therefore, is not unprofitable in the sense that it has no use at all but in the sense that obeying it does not provide any ultimate, eternal rewards. The law is used to condemn, but it can never be used to save. For effecting salvation, the law is unprofitable.”</p> <p>— — — — — But we must not forget that God uses the law to point us to Christ. He put the law in our hearts so we know what is right.</p> <p>— — — — — — <b><u>READ: Romans 2:14–15 (NASB95): 14</u></b><br/><b>For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, 15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,</b></p> <p>— — — — — — <b><u>READ: Jeremiah 31:33 (NASB95): 33</u></b><br/><b>“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.</b></p> <p>— — — — — — — God wants us to be aware of our broken condition. He wants His commands to bring us the transforming savior of the world; Jesus Christ.</p> |
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| Scripture:  |   |
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| <p><u>18 For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness</u><br/> <u>19 (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.</u></p>                  | <p>There is a better hope for perfection than the law; thank God!!!</p> <p>— That is Jesus Christ the Great High Priest that washes broken sinful creation, transforming us to spotless righteous Children of God.</p> <p>— — Mohler wrote, “The law never made anyone perfect — it never produced a truly holy, perfect people, and it certainly never produced perfect individuals.”</p> <p>— — — So we can approach God not through mortal priests and a law that was not meant to perfect but through a better hope; Jesus.</p> <p>— — — — We have talked about hope before but I will remind you of what hope in Christ means.</p> <p>— — — — — Hope in Christ does not come naturally, but our confident expectation that God is who He said He is and has and will do what He said He will do.</p> <p>— — — — — — We exercise this hope through faith in Christ Jesus, meaning where our hope lives, is where our hearts live. Our hearts need to be living in Christ.</p> |
| <p><u>20 And inasmuch as it was not without an oath</u><br/> <u>21 (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him,</u><br/> <u>“The Lord has sworn</u><br/> <u>And will not change His mind,</u><br/> <u>‘You are a priest forever’ ”);</u></p> | <p>So, how did Christ become a priest?</p> <p>— Was it declared by the law? Was He elected by the people? What He appointed by the leadership?</p> <p>— — No, God swore an oath that Christ would be priest forever.</p> <p>— — — <b>READ: Psalm 110:4 (NASB95): 4 The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”</b></p> <p>— — — — Hendriksen wrote, “This is unique. God told Moses to consecrate Aaron and his sons to the priesthood and stipulated, ‘The priesthood is theirs by a lasting ordinance. But God did not swear an oath; he only administered an ordinance.’”</p> <p>— — — — — Once again we see a unique situation concerning Christ. So, many unique things happened to reveal that Jesus truly is the Messiah.</p>   |
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| Scripture: |  |
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|            | <p>Something else unique has happened in God swearing an oath about Christ.</p> <p>—According to the way that oath making was conducted back then, and even now, Christ should have sworn the oath of office.</p> <p>— —When a government official is elected into an office they swear an oath to the position.</p> <p>— — —Instead of Christ swearing the oath, God swears the oath.</p> <p>— — — —He does this because God is showing us this will come to pass and will not be changed.</p> <p>— — — — —Christ is sworn in and He will be High Priest for all eternity.</p>  |
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|            | <p>Why is it important that we know that? Why does God include this information for us in the book of Hebrews?</p> <p>—Well, first and foremost, we can rest in the fact that we have Christ and will always have Christ.</p> <p>— —God will not remove Him and leave us without representation.</p> <p>— — —This oath promises us that Christ will always be there to intercede for us.</p> <p>— — — —<b><u>READ: Hebrews 6:19–20 (NASB95):</u></b> 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, 20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.</p> <p>— — — — —<b><u>READ: Hebrews 7:23–25 (NASB95):</u></b> 23 The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, 24 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. 25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.</p> |
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| Scripture: |   |
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|            | <p>This oath was important also, because it guaranteed a better covenant.</p> <p>—Hendriksen wrote, “God has appointed his Son not merely to be the guarantor who represents man to God. In addition, Jesus is the believer’s guarantee that all God’s promises will be fulfilled. That is, no promise God has made to us can ever be broken, for Jesus gives the assurance that his perfection will be our perfection, our bodies will be like his glorious body, and his ascension guarantees our entrance into heaven.”</p> <p>— — <b><u>READ: Philippians 3:20–21 (NASB95):</u> 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.</b></p> <p>— — <b><u>READ: John 14:3–4 (NASB95):</u> 3 “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. 4 “And you know the way where I am going.”</b></p> |
|            | <p>The new covenant that God makes with His people are between Him and His people.</p> <p>—Where He promises to give us His laws in our hearts through the Holy Spirit and that He will be our God.</p> <p>— — The only condition that He puts on this new covenant is that we have faith.</p> <p>— — — This covenant is better because Jesus is the mediator and guarantor of this covenant.</p> <p>— — — — See in the old covenant, Moses acted as mediator but he could not act as guarantor of the covenant.</p> <p>— — — — — Jesus is mediator and guarantor of the covenant unlike a normal human; Jesus is unique!!!</p>   |
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| Scripture: |   |
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|            | <p>What is our take away? What is our practical application? How do we apply this to our lives?</p> <p>—Everything but Christ is deficient to bring us to God. Don't rely on anything but Christ. Moralily will not get you to God, popularity, money, good works, etc. Only Christ!!!</p> <p>—The law is perfect and effective to do the job that God had intended it to do; but that job is not salvation. The law should be pointing us to our desperate need for Christ.</p> <p>— —Without Christ we will never change and be the deprived human that lives contrary to the law. With Christ we will live closer to the law.</p> <p>—Christ is where our hope should reside.</p> <p>—Christ is the mediator and the guarantor of the new covenant; God did not have to guarantee anything for us, but He did.</p> |
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