

The Perfect Answer

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>So last week we talked about how everything is deficient to bring us to God, except Christ.</p> <p>—Morality, being a good person, popularity, money, good works; none of these are enough to get us to God. Only Christ will get us to God.</p> <p>— — We also looked at how the law is perfect to do exactly what God had intended it to; point us to our desperate need for Jesus Christ the Messiah.</p> <p>— — — We looked at how Christ is the agent for our change and that without Christ we will not change in righteousness.</p> <p>— — — — We saw that Christ is where our hope should reside and our hope should be in nothing else.</p> <p>— — — — — We saw that Christ is the Mediator and the Guarantor of the new covenant. God has given us a guarantee.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>There is a lot to say today so let’s dive right in.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 7:20–28 (NASB95): 20 And inasmuch as it was not without an oath 21 (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him, “The Lord has sworn And will not change His mind, ‘You are a priest forever’ ”); 22 so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. 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. 26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. 28 For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever.</p>	<p>We are going to start off with a couple of verses that we looked at last week briefly; but we are going to understand them just a bit more.</p> <p>— So last week we looked briefly at the covenant that Christ is the guarantor of and the mediator of and that the covenant that Moses was mediator of, he was not able to act as guarantor of.</p> <p>— — Now to us, in a more Christian era, this does not sound shocking.</p> <p>— — — But to those who the book of Hebrews was written to, this would have been a tough concept.</p> <p>— — — — To have a better covenant was something that did not seem possible from the Jewish perspective.</p> <p>— — — — — What could possibly be better than the Abrahamic covenant?</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The answer is easy; the covenant that saves.</p> <p>— The Abrahamic covenant did a lot of things and was full of blessings but it was not a covenant that saves.</p> <p>— — Albert Mohler wrote, “It (the Abrahamic covenant) created a covenant people who survived through God’s providential care. They enjoyed the blessings of a sacrificial system, experienced the forbearance of sin, and tasted the forgiveness of sins.”</p> <p>— — — Yet it could not save; Jesus is the assurance of things hoped for; the new covenant which brings salvation to all who would hand their lives over and believe in Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior.</p> <p>— — — — READ: Hebrews 8:6 (NASB95): 6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.</p> <p>— — — — — READ: Hebrews 9:15 (NASB95): 15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.</p>
<p>23 The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing,</p> <p>24 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.</p> <p>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>	<p>We have looked at Jesus’ permanency in His role of High Priest several times already but verses 23-25 add to that understanding.</p> <p>— As we have looked at, there were probably thousands of priests over Israel’s history before Christ.</p> <p>— — Once Christ came and took the role of priest forever, there is no need for another priest.</p> <p>— — — His priesthood continues for all time. The Eternal One, is priest which makes His priesthood last for....Well, eternity.</p> <p>— — — — Not only is His priesthood everlasting but so is the nature of His priesthood.</p> <p>— — — — — We know that Jesus is the Eternal One who is perfect and has been perfect from before time; so His priesthood is unchanged and everlasting.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So it should not be shocking to us that He is able to “save forever those that draw near.”</p> <p>—Andrew Murray wrote, “There is never a single moment in which His priestly action, his watchful care of us, His loving sympathy and succor (Assistance in time of distress, relief, help, aid), His working in us in the power of our endless life, is not in full operation.”</p> <p>— — The salvation that God provided is not temporal but it is complete, forever, and there is never a moment that His saving power is not active.</p>
	<p>How does Christ save us completely?</p> <p>—He saves us in a large complete way.</p> <p>— — He has accomplished all that broken sinners need in order to be saved.</p> <p>— — — We do not have to seek out any persons, standard, or authority except Christ.</p> <p>— — — — As Mohler wrote, “His (Christ’s) priesthood leaves nothing undone.”</p> <p>— — — — — We have that amazing blanket covering that Christ gives us. We are a blaze from our sin and Jesus is like the big airplane that comes down and dumps a massive load of water on us.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>But Jesus also saves us in a way that we don't have to look for any other that would come after Him.</p> <p>— His priesthood and salvation are everlasting and effective.</p> <p>— — There is not a new priest that we need to be aware of, there is not a new way that will come, and there is not an end to the salvation work of Christ.</p> <p>— — — So, He is able to save to the uttermost, completely, and forever.</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Romans 8:31–35 (NASB95):</u> 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?</p> <p>— — — — — <u>READ: Romans 8:37–39 (NASB95):</u> 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.</p>

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<p>23 The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing,</p> <p>24 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.</p> <p>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>	<p>This is why the author, inspired by God, can with full assurance say that Christ, “lives to make intercession for them.”</p> <p>— This salvation that Christ gives us opened the holy of holy to the mere broken human.</p> <p>— He has opened the presence of God to us and He continually intercedes for those that commit to God.</p> <p>— — Jesus has literally opened the way to all that is needed for a Christian and He is excited to keep that open to us any time we choose to access it.</p> <p>— — — The question is, how often are you accessing it? How often is Christ interceding for you?</p> <p>— — — — Is He used to seeing you or do you rarely come into His presence?</p>
	<p>Murray points out, “Because His work of intercession never pauses or ceases, our faith and our experience of the power of that intercession need never fail.”</p> <p>— Jesus is able to intercede for us and provide help because He is able to sympathize with us as He was tempted like us.</p> <p>— — READ: Hebrews 4:15–16 (NASB95): 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.</p> <p>— — — Jesus, being the guarantee for us of the new better covenant, being High Priest forever, and always interceding for us, reveals He is what all humanity needs.</p> <p>— — — — The question is: is He what we are choosing?</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The passage tells us that we need to be drawing near to Him.</p> <p>—Why do we not have the understanding of God that we think we should? Why is it we don't feel that closeness to Christ? Why do we feel like we don't belong or fit in anywhere?</p> <p>— —It is because we are not drawing near to our true home, our true family, our true life, and our true Father.</p> <p>— — —We need to dwell with God, spending our lives at the feet of God.</p> <p>— — — —Too often we play the role of Martha instead of Mary and miss what we should be doing.</p> <p>— — — — —<u>READ: Luke 10:38–42 (NASB95):</u> 38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." 41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."</p> <p>— — — — —When we forsake all (give up all, abandon our old life, leave the world's ways) and give ourselves to Christ, we will be right where we should be; in the salvation of Christ.</p>

Scripture:	
<p>26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;</p> <p>27 who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.</p> <p>28 For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever.</p>	<p>Christ is the perfect answer to the problem that we had.</p> <p>—He fills all the requirements that we needed for Messiah, King eternal, everlasting High Priest, and much more.</p> <p>— — We are given a list of personal characteristics of Christ.</p> <p>— — — He is holy (exalted, worthy of complete devotion) and His holiness is revealed in His perfection.</p> <p>— — — — He is innocent (without sin) of any charges that might be brought against Him.</p> <p>— — — — — He is undefiled (not corrupt but pure, clean), unstained by this world.</p> <p>— — — — — — He was separated from the sinners, meaning, He lives among us and was separate because He did not sin.</p> <p>— — — — — — — He is exalted above the heavens because He was all of the things in this list and much more.</p> <p>— — — — — — — — Murray wrote this about this list, “‘Holy,’ in fellowship and harmony with God; ‘guiltless,’ in the purity of His disposition; ‘undefiled,’ in His having conquered all temptation from sin and the world; ‘separate from sinners,’ a true man among men and yet One who had kept Himself free from their sin; ‘made higher than the heavens,’ now exalted in the glory of God to communicated to us life and the blessings of the heavenly world.”</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Jesus is not like other priests as our passage points out but He is unique.</p> <p>—He offered Himself on the altar which was an acceptable offering for what was needed.</p> <p>— — <u>READ: Revelation 13:8 (NASB95): 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.</u></p> <p>— — — Mohler wrote, “Christ, however, had no need to offer sacrifices repeatedly. He accomplished the full forgiveness of sins in his one and only sacrifice when he offered up himself on the cross....Christ’s sacrifice is not perpetual but historical. It was made once for all and is finished. Nothing can be added to it or taken from it. It was the perfect sacrifice, and it was completed all at once.”</p>
	<p>So, what is our practical application? How do we apply this to our lives?</p> <p>—First, don’t ever think that Jesus was God’s back up plan to the law and the Levitical priests. Jesus was the plan from the beginning. The old covenant was not a failed attempt to bring humanity to God but it was to demonstrate our need for our savior.</p> <p>— — Second, Christ’s priesthood and the nature of His priesthood is everlasting; and He saves us completely but we can also rest in the fact that He is all we need. There is no other piece of the puzzle.</p> <p>— — — Third, Christ is there holding the way open to sit at the feet of God the Father. To rest in Him, to be strengthened by Him, to be guided by Him, to be educated by Him, and so much more; what are you waiting for?</p> <p>— — — — Lastly, Christ is the answer to the problem. He is the perfect answer so seek Him out. Stop making life so hard on yourself and run to the Holy, innocent, undefiled, sinless, exalted One.</p>

Scripture:	
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