

Do you know what Jesus is doing for you today? Most of us know he died 2000 years ago for our sins, but do we understand what he is doing for us now? Paul said, if we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, how much more will we be saved by his life! Jesus lives today, to save you right here and NOW! Spurgeon said, “If, in His uttermost weakness, He redeemed us by His death, now that He is in all His power and glory, “much more” He is able to save us by His life.”

Verse 25, “Consequently he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them”. Jesus is able to save you to the uttermost. Or to the utmost degree, to the greatest degree possible! He saves so completely, that nothing else needs to be added! He can save you from all your sin, and all your guilt and shame. He can save you from suffering in eternity for the guilt of your sins. He can save us from the judgment and the wrath of a Holy God, that our sins deserve

But he not only saves us from the horrible consequences of sin! He saves us out of our sin and shame and brokenness into new life! He wants to save you from your impatience with your children, from your irritation with your spouse, from your anger towards that person at work. He is able to heal, and makes us whole. He intercedes for us till we become fully like him. He can take our worst sins, our worst faults, the most offensive aspects of our personality, our worst habits or addictions, and make us pure and loving and holy, like he is. He can save us from our anxieties and fears and teach us to be strong and courageous. No matter, how weak, or wretched, or hopeless we may feel, he can take us to the uttermost glory and perfection.

Adolf Saphire: “His death for our sins was only removing an obstacle. He intercedes for us that his life might be in us abundantly, and that all the spiritual blessings in the heavenly places, and all the temporal blessings which we require for our safety, comfort, and usefulness, may be bestowed upon us by the love of the Father and through the indwelling Holy Ghost”.

He does this for “those who draw near to God through him”. For those who feel the burden of their sin and feel the brokenness of life, for those who long to live in the presence of God, to experience the glory of God, this ministry of Jesus is the greatest thing in the world! “Those who come to God, through Jesus.”.. he saves THOSE people in a complete, total, perfect way!

Christianity is “drawing near to God through Jesus”. I read a sad story of a young man who said he lost his faith. He said he was home schooled, with a strong emphasis on debate, the written word, and defending the faith. He memorized 22 books of the New Testament, and passionately defended Creationism. Then at the age of 23 he said he lost his faith. In his story I did not see any part of his experience as “drawing near to God though Jesus”. He had experienced a lot of Christian culture, but no experience with Jesus and the Father! A Christian is one who draws near to God through Jesus. We are here to draw near, to move our hearts into the presence of God, to pursue communion with God, through Jesus!

*Jesus saves us to the uttermost by always living to intercede for us. The root of the word intercede in Greek means to get or to obtain. Jesus presents all your needs to the Father and he always obtains

from the Father all the mercy, grace and help you need, to completely, perfectly save you.

The intercession of Jesus does not mean that the father is against us and Jesus has to beg him to be kind against his will. The Father and the Son in perfect oneness, planned this for our salvation.

FF Bruce said, (Jesus) is not to be thought of as “standing ever before the Father with outstretched arms....with strong crying and tears pleading our cause in the presence of a reluctant God; but as a throned Priest-King, asking what he will from a Father who always hears and grants his request."

In one sense Jesus intercedes for us merely by his presence. He intercedes for us, “with his wounds”, as “the Lamb who was slain”, but this verse presents Jesus as actively presenting our needs to the Father, actively interceding now and living for that purpose.

David Platt “...this picture of Jesus’s work of intercession at the Father’s right hand means that he is always working for our good. That he is always in the midst of our struggles. He is interceding for our perseverance in the midst of our temptations, he is interceding for our power, and our ability to overcome temptation.

..When I intercede for someone, that’s me saying I want to pray for that person, I want to represent that person before God and ask for his blessing. So, the picture we have of Jesus right now and always, this is what he’s doing. He is dispensing the blessings of God in our lives. The grace, the strength, the mercy that we need at every point in our lives. He’s dispensing it as our intercessor. He’s making it possible for us to have all that God has available to us at every moment through Jesus our intercessor.”

*And this intercession goes on forever because he lives forever. “He always lives to make intercession for (us)”. Jesus is alive for you today, and he will be alive for you tomorrow, and every day of your life. And his purpose in living, is to be FOR us, is to intercede for us, to help us! Calvin, “How great is this love toward us! Christ lives for us, not for himself!” Thought: “Jesus is for you forever!”

I say Jesus is for us because you don’t intercede for people you are against! You don’t intercede for people you don’t care about, or for people you don’t love. In Romans 8 Jesus’ intercession for us is proof that God is for us, and that we can never be separated from his love. Where is the one who condemns you, or accuses you? It’s not the Father or the Son! God is the one who justifies and Jesus is the one who intercedes.

Spurgeon: “The Lord Jesus Christ in His perpetual priesthood lives (for the) purpose (of being) the Advocate, Defender, Patron, Mediator, and Interposer for His people”. Even if you don’t understand all those words you clearly get the idea that Jesus has you back. He is there to support you, to back you, to supply you with all you need! Nothing can make you soar like an eagle through life than to know this!

Robert Murray McCheyne said, "If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies... Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me!"

Henry Bosch said, “During a deep personal crisis, I realized the truth of Hebrews 7 in a new and wonderful way. Satan seemed to be attacking me on every side. So I asked the Lord to plead for me. The next day the problem was solved, and I knew it was the Lord's

special intervention. Never before had I been so conscious of the Savior's high-priestly ministry.”

When you woke up this morning, you were in God’s favor because of the intercession of Jesus! Jesus is for you right here now in this moment! When you wake up in the night, he is for you. When you are run down and tired he is praying for you. When you are in severe trials and testing, Jesus is obtaining mercy and grace for you! When you are battling sin Jesus is there to help you. Every day, through all the drama, of your life, Jesus is there interceding!

Our great need is to know this and believe this! Our great need is to actually have confidence in Jesus. So often we gravitate toward outward things to fix us and relieve us and to make us happy, when our need is an inward revelation of Jesus, as our high priest.

In some sense this was the problem with the Hebrews. They did not see the glory or the perfection of what they had in Christ as their High Priest. They wanted to go back to the forms and the sacrifices of the human priesthood. The writer of Hebrews was concerned about this dim view of Christ. Their view of Christ had sunk to the point that angels and Moses and the Levitical priests, were crowding out the glory of Christ in their minds and hearts. This loss of focus on Jesus, and loss of confidence in Jesus was leading them in to grave spiritual danger!

Like them, our well being, as believers, has to do with what we really think about Jesus. Our joy, has to do with what we really think about Jesus! Our hope has to do with what we really think about Jesus! We need to see that his sacrifice for our sins is so perfect that it cancels out the need for any other psychological or

religious system to deal with our sin, guilt and brokenness. We need to see that his present saving work, cancels out the need for any other system to make us whole and happy and completely saved. If Jesus saves you to the uttermost, what else do you need!!

What does this have to do with Melchizedek?? The first part of this chapter, for the most part makes no sense to us, unless we understand what was going on in the mind of the Jewish Christians to whom this was mainly written. We were never taught that the Levitical priests were our avenue to God, but these Jewish believers were! They had, at one time, placed complete confidence in the Levitical priesthood, and were now in danger of losing confidence in Jesus and going back to rely on the work of their priests and the whole system of law, that went with that.

These Jewish believers had doubts about looking to Jesus alone, because he was not from the tribe of Levi. From the time of Moses, no one could be a priest unless he was from the tribe of Levi and the family of Aaron. But Jesus was from the tribe of Judah, and this sowed seeds of doubts about Jesus, doubts about leaving the Law and the Levitical priesthood behind.

The writer of Hebrews deals with this grave error by pointing to an obscure character in the Old Testament, with a weird sounding name, to prove that Jesus is vastly superior to the Levitical priests.

In Genesis 14, Abraham's nephew Lot, was captured by coalition of kings. Abraham went to battle and defeated these kings to get him back. After this great victory, a king named Melchizedek came out to meet him! Verse 18 says he was "a priest of God Most High". Abraham recognized his greatness, and gave him a tenth of all the

wealth he gained from this war. And Melchizedek blessed Abraham.

This is the story we read about in Hebrews 7:1,2 The key points: This Melchizedek is a priest of the Most High God. He is King of a city meaning peace. His name means king of righteousness. And he had no genealogy given in the Bible, no descendants listed in the Bible, so in this historical sense, he had no beginning and no end. All this signals us that he is a type of Christ. Jesus is a priest and Jesus is a king! He is king of righteousness and prince of peace! And Jesus actually does live eternally!

And then there is this brief but important prophecy about the coming Messiah in Psalm 110:4. God himself swore an oath, saying, “You are priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek!”

The radical thing about the priesthood in the order of Melchizedek is that this priesthood has nothing to do with the tribe of Levi or the family of Aaron, from which all the priests came. The author of Hebrews was reminding these Jews who so venerated the Levitical priesthood, that there WAS another order of priests that existed before Abraham, before Moses, before any Levite priest ever performed a sacrifice.

On top of that Abraham clearly viewed Melchizedek as his superior, by giving a tenth of the spoils of war. And Melchizedek from his greater position pronounced a blessing on Abraham. Verse 6 “...this man who does not have his descent from (the Levites) received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.” Key point! Abraham is the inferior person, Melchizedek is the greater man.

Melchizedek's superiority also extends also over the Levites (Israel's priests)! Verse 9 "One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him." When Abraham knelt before this King and Priest of God, and honored him with gifts, he did not do that just for himself but his descendants were identified with him. So not only Abraham took the place of the inferior person, to Melchizedek, so did Levi.

Since Melchizedek was greater than Abraham and Levi, and Jesus is of this superior priesthood, then Jesus is greater than the Levitical priests.

And ultimately, the Melchizedek priesthood is superior because it has no end. All the Levitical priests, would do their duty for a lifetime and then die. But Jesus continues as priest by the power of an indestructible life. Verse 23 "The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever....25Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

*Applications for us: First: We can go to Jesus with our burdens, our cries, our longings, our desires our fears, and all our needs. We can tell him these things with assurance that he will intercede for us and obtain the help and grace we need. Old song: "I must tell Jesus, I must tell Jesus, I cannot bear these burdens alone. I must tell Jesus, I must tell Jesus, Jesus can help me, Jesus alone."

*Second: Because of the intercession of Jesus, we are never alone, we are never on our own. Malcomb Muggeridge said, “The first thing I remember about the world, is that I was a stranger in it!”. The first feeling he remembered as a young boy was loneliness. There is an old song by Utopia that has the haunting words, “We are all alone; and we are never heard”. Jesus solves our problem of loneliness. You always have someone who hears you, and who cares enough to intercede for you.

*Third: We have a duty to keep ourselves conscious that Jesus is always living, always interceding for our present help and our eternal well-being. We must consciously think about how Jesus is always pulling for us, actively undertaking for our joy and peace, and our future glory. This has to become the focus our our soul.

Fourth: We should THANK him for interceding for us! By the time you realize that things are falling apart, or are facing temptation, or that the evil one is upon you, Jesus ALREADY knows that and is interceding for you. This is something to regularly thank him for. When you get up tomorrow morning, instead of thinking about how tired or miserable you are, or how much work is ahead of you, start thanking Jesus for already, being at work, interceding, presenting your needs to the Father, for that moment and the day ahead.

What are your needs here this morning? Do you need wisdom for some perplexing situation you are facing? Do you need to forgive someone that just seems impossible for you to forgive? Are you worn out or worn down by some situation? Is there some self-destructive habit that you need to break free from? Some sin you need to overcome? Are you battling feelings of guilt and shame and condemnation even though

you are following Jesus as much as you know? Are you anxious and fearful about something? Are you discouraged or even depressed? Things just seem dark. Are you lonely? Do you just need to feel clean and forgiven? Or loved and liked and accepted? Jesus can help you with all these things and much more! He is there to save you now and to save you in the future and will save you to the uttermost.