

Riverview Baptist Church Wednesday Night Class: A Study in the Book of Hebrews – Lesson 5

E. Christ is Better than Aaron – 4:14-10:18

1. A Better Position – 4:14-16

2. A Better Priest – 5:1-7:28

a. Two Prerequisites for Priesthood – 5:1-4

b. Perfection of the Son – 5:5-10

c. Third Warning Section – 5:11-6:20

d. Priesthood of Melchizedek – 7:1-28

Here in Hebrews 5, the author is continuing to show that Christ is better than Aaron. Aaron, being the direct lineage of the priesthood in the Old Testament, was revered and elevated in mind of the Jewish people.

Hebrews 5:1-7:28 – Christ is a Better Priest than Aaron!

There are three essential thoughts in this section:

1. The characteristics and qualifications for a priest.
2. A warning!
3. A Gentile priest is used to reveal Christ's Priesthood.

There are two pre-requisites for priesthood (5:1-4)

In 5:1-14 the author gives two orders of priesthood, the Aaronic order (5:1-4) and the Melchizedekian order (5:5-10). Both orders of priests had to meet the two pre-requisites.

1. A priest had to be _____ – 5:1-3

No angel or even God Himself (in His divine essence) could qualify to be a priest. A priest in Israel had to be genealogically from the tribe of Levi (Num. 3-4; Neh. 7:63-65). The high priests also came from the tribe of Levi, but they had to be from the Aaronic family (Num. 3:1-4; 4:16-20).

2. A priest had to be _____ by God – 5:4.

Aaron was marked off beforehand (Exod. 16:33) and was called (Exod. 28:1 – Compare Num. 16:10-21).

The historical record of Israel indicates that there were some “priests” between the second century B.C. and 70 A.D. that were not of Aaronic appointment by God, but rather by civil authorities.

So, then how does Christ meet the qualifications to be a priest?

The fact that Christ is _____ qualifies him to be considered in quality. This is evident to our thinking. Aaron was a sinful human being. Therefore, Christ who had no sin is better than Aaron.

1. Jesus is called of God – 5:5-6

Jesus did not declare Himself to be a priest. God the Father does! He declares that Jesus is His Son (Ps. 2:7; Acts 13:33). God then declares that Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek (Ps. 110:4).

How long will Christ be a priest of this order? _____

We will go into more detail about Melchizedek when we study chapter 7.

2. Jesus is human – 5:7-10

These details are not explicitly recorded, most conservative scholars would relate this to Christ in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:39-44).

Notice, “In the days of His flesh...” Christ did the following:

1. He offered up prayers and supplications to His Father, because all prayer is to be directed to the Father (Matt. 6:8, 9; John 15:16; James 1:17).
2. He prayed with “loud crying and tears.” Christ prayed in this way because He felt the entire _____ of humanity’s sin upon Him. He was under the great stress of emotions, knowing what he would face on the Cross.

He prayed to the One who was “able to save Him from death...” What does this mean?

1. A liberal view – God the Father could have _____ Jesus death on the Cross.

Refutation – Christ prophesied of His death – Matt. 16:21; John 12:27-34; 13:1.

2. From death through the _____

Refutation – Christ had the power to raise Himself – John 10:18.

3. From _____ death – After being judicially forsaken at the Cross (Matt. 27:46; Luke 23:46), the fellowship between the _____ Father and the Son was restored by the Father.

God the Father “heard” the prayers of His Son because of His _____ (fear - KJV, piety - NASB, reverent submission – NIV, reverence – ESV). In the Greek, ἀπὸ τῆς εὐλαβείας, “because of His reverence” can also be translated as “because of His obedience.”

Jesus also learned obedience from the things He _____ – 5:8. The Greek structure is “He learned from the things He suffered the obedience.”

In what sense did He learn obedience? Did He need to learn to obey? No! That would imply that He lacked something in His humanity. What seems to be the answer is that Christ learned the _____ of obedience.

“And having been made perfect...” – 5:9 – This does not mean that Christ was progressing toward perfection. Rather, his sufferings were brought to completion allowing Him to be the source or author of eternal salvation.

The author then reiterates the fact that Christ was designated a priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Question: Why was Christ not a priest after the order of Aaron?

Now the author begins the _____ warning section of Hebrews in 5:11-6:20.

The author wanted to teach more on Melchizedek, but he felt that he could not. Why? His audience had become _____ in their hearing – the ability to understand teaching.

The author stated the reality of their spiritual _____. They had apparently been saved long enough that they should have been able to teach others.

The reality of these Christians is that they did not do what was necessary to grow. They had need of basic teaching again! These were _____ Christians.

The author uses the illustration of milk and meat to open their understanding. Babies can only consume milk. Mature Christians, who have practiced (a Greek word that means _____ activity) can discern between good and evil.

What does a Christian need to do to move beyond milk to being able to handle solid food?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.