

Letter to the **Hebrews**



Lesson 5-The Priesthood of Christ and our Spirituality

Focus: Hebrews 5:1-14

- **The weakness, compassion, and understanding of Human priests (v.1-4)**
 - *Those who belonged to the earthly priesthood were to be chosen by God, not merely by men. Men had to recognize their place and calling, but God was the One to call them, and enable them for His work. These men were also subject to weaknesses, even as others were; none were perfect. God also showed mercy to them, even as He did to others. The priests were to offer first for their sins, and then, once cleansed by the blood, they were to offer for the sins of the people while they were standing in the holy office. (See Leviticus 9:7; 16:6, 13, 15).*
 - (v.2) There are two primary groups mentioned here who were to be helped by God's faithful ministers. (1) The ignorant, and (2) those who were "out of the way." God speaks against those sins which were done "...in times of your ignorance, " and according to the "...former lusts in your ignorance" (Acts 17:29-31; 1 Peter 1:13-15). God wants us to repent of those and be transformed. The Bible also speaks of those who were wandering astray from what they actually knew to be the right thing, which is even a worse, and more dangerous kind of sin which could lead someone easily into a lost condition if persisted in, and also could shame the name of God and easily mislead others too. That is when someone turns away from "the way" (Isaiah 30:21; Jer. 6:16) of life and truth. This dangerous kind of sin must be repented of, and if any has a spiritual mind, they should carefully, humbly, and with love, reach out and attempt to save a brother or sister from such sin, if it is indeed possible (James 4:17; Galatians 6:1).
 - (v.4) Aaron, the brother of Moses, was set in charge of the Levitical Priesthood from the very beginning of it. There is a second order of the priesthood mentioned here in Hebrews, and that is the order, or after the manner of, Melchizedek.
- **Christ met the true qualifications of a righteous and worthy priest (v.5-10)**
 - *Verses 1-4 gave us the qualifications of a true priest while vs.5-10 show us how Christ actually met those qualifications.*
 - The promise from **Psalm 2:7** said, "Today have I begotten you." God the Father had brought Jesus into the world miraculously (**Luke 1:30,31,34,35**). It was by birth from a virgin that Christ Jesus came into the world. God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to move upon this woman, Mary, a human being, to cause her to be pregnant. The very God who formed man from the dust, and who formed the first woman from a rib taken from Adam's side, now also caused woman's egg to fertilize, and begin a pregnancy of the Holy Child who was going to be the Savior of the entire world! God was sending the very One who was going to save mankind from their sins (Matthew 1:21). Christ was NOT some product of a relationship between God the Father and the Holy Spirit, or by some

type of female god—there is no such one. Neither was Mary a wife to God, but rather a mere Creation, though a holy woman. Mary was the wife of a man named Joseph, and told them for it to be so (Matthew 1:20). ***Those who are engaged in worship of or especial reverence to the woman Mary, the mother of Jesus, are involved in a type of heresy which is a foreign idea to the teachings of the Bible. (See what Jesus said, Luke 11:27,28). Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin woman Mary. It is also noteworthy here to realize that Mary did not stay a virgin after the birth of Jesus. No, her husband did indeed know her physically after that (See what the Bible says, Matthew 1:24,25).***

- Jesus did not seek His own glory, but the Father glorified Him (John 8:50-54). Christ came humbly before us. He was meek and lowly (Matthew 11:28-30).
- **Christ was “after the order of Melchizedek” (v.6).** This reference comes from the Psalms (Psalm 110:4). We can find **the story of this man** in **Genesis 14:17-20**. There was no line of successors from this man. There is actually no priestly order of Melchizedek. The word translated “order” in **Psalm 110:4** (in the KJV) is the Hebrew word *dibrah* which means “manner.” So, after the manner of likeness of Melchizedek. One man, chosen by God!
- With “tears and strong crying” **Christ** pled with the Father, but He submitted obediently to the will of God the Father (**Matthew 26:39**). Christ was perfect, He did not sin. But still, He did learn about obedience and submission to God through His earthly life. Jesus grew and developed as a human being would. (**See Luke 2:40, 52** and also Philippians 2:5-8). Christ learned humility and submission through His life. He was growing as one should grow. His understanding grew as it should. Yet, He was without sin. *In our prayers we should remember that God sometimes says Yes, or no, or wait. We should trust Him and submit to His perfect will, not our own. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.*
- **The need for spiritual understanding and exercising our senses in a spiritual way (v.11-14)**
 - As babes in Christ, we are unskillful in His word, but we must grow and exercise our senses in Him and in His word. We should be growing and should become as teachers and sharers of His word. Sadly, some were not prepared for that.

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you receive Jesus Christ as your lawyer or High Priest in Heaven, and seek to grow in Him? _____