

Week beginning Monday June 21st 2021

Prepared by Ken Sykes

Hebrews 5

1-10 The high priest stood between God and people on the merit of blood sacrifices not himself. Jesus was qualified: human, called, obedient. He was sinless, perfect & so needed no shed blood. V9 – What does 'eternal salvation' mean? Who is it for? See Mt 7:21, 28:20.

11-14 Spiritual immaturity. We mature by being trained by using the Word of God, not by hearing pretty stories or the latest sociology. On a scale 1-10 how mature is our Circuit? How mature are we? How serious are we about trying to understand the whole of the word of God and living it?

Chapter 6 – 1-3 'Therefore' – grow up! What are the 6 basics of Christianity? Not to be discarded but to be built on. **4-8** A 3rd warning re abandoning the faith. God's grace must be evidenced by fruit bearing (see 1 Cor 15:10). How does God water our hearts? What fruit are we producing?

9-12 But don't panic! God knows us through and through, understands temptation, isn't unjust and always ready to forgive. Press on folks to realize your hope!

13-20 We have an anchor, a high priest praying for us right now at the right hand of the Father. (Gk 'Anchura' - anchor, a Greek pun on 'en Kurio' -in Christ).

Chapter 7 – The central passage of the book. Melchizedek (see Genesis 14:18-20). A priest greater than Abraham, with no beginning or end (birth or death) so his priesthood lasts forever – like Jesus, unlike the levitical priests who died, but like them, human. Whilst Jesus is the Son of God. Totally unique, and therefore superior in every way. A perfect priest, our brother, praying for us!

Chapter 8 – Old plan (Covenant rules) on paper out. New plan in our hearts by the H Sp in. This one works! We want to please Him so we don't need rules. We have His power so we can. (N.B. The Greek for 'Covenant' here means 'A will' not 'an agreement'. It's one sided, We can agree to it or reject it - it's not open for negotiation. We approach God through Christ on His terms not ours. What implications does that have for us? (see 9:27)

Chapter 9 - So going to Church can't and never did, clear our consciences. It's just a shadow of what can happen if we are in Christ who is always in the Holy of Holies offering himself as our sacrifice - and we are in Him. Wow.

Indeed we are the temple of God (individually and corporately) 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19. So get your heads and hearts around the implications of that!

Here's some space...

Jesus saved us on the cross from the penalty of sin. He is saving us now from the power of sin. and v28 He is coming again to save us from the presence of sin.

Are you ready to greet Him?