

5-1-24

The heart of a Pastor

There is something that has been bothering me about Hebrews 5:11-6:12. Throughout ch 5, Paul has been talking about Jesus being the High Priest in the order of Melchisedec and He being “the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”. Then Paul changes the subject. It seems there was a problem with the people hearing what he was preaching and teaching. They were beginning to question their salvation. A basic tennement of faith.

I can imagine Paul...being on a roll and excited about the teaching of the deeper things of God...expounding on this High Priest and how He is different than the high priests of Aaron, and then hear the doubt of salvation rising from the people. “Am I really saved by only the grace of God? Have I really died with Jesus? Does the Holy Spirit really work through my life in prayer over others? Am I really saved from eternal judgement because of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead?” These are the things they had on their minds that Paul addresses in 6:1-2 after his rebuke in almost a frustrated tone in 5:11-14.

Here is what I saw yesterday: The patience and love of a pastor in Paul. He calls out where the people are at...dull of hearing. Wrapped in doubt of their salvation. Having to drop what he is saying to again lay the basic foundations of faith.

But..then he writes **6:3** “*And this we will do if God permits*”.

Do what? Lay again the foundation of the basic tennents of faith. This is where Paul is shown as unwilling to go a step farther in his teaching until he encourages and strengthens and puts to rest the fear and doubt he sees rising in the people...(I got this wrong. The actual passage says this: **Heb 6:1** *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this will we do, if God permit.* I still think the basic idea of this entry is true even if Paul was talking about going on unto perfection or growing in the Lord in v3 instead of laying again the foundations..)

It was not about a heavy rod of correction. He went from simply stating the fact that they were not able to focus on what he was teaching because they had doubts about the security of their salvation in Jesus. So, he takes the time to address their questions and fears. Point by point he reminds them of Jesus’ great love for them. That their salvation is secure because it is impossible for any to fall so far that they could not come back to reconciliation. That Jesus died once and for all not over and over again. He ends ch 6 by stating that it is not by their works that they are saved, but by the promise of God. That God swore by Himself the promise of the covenant because there was none greater to swear on. He took the full responsibility of saving His own people on Himself. Paul encouraged and strengthened this people by reminding them not to lose hope because God cannot lie.

Only after this encouragement to continue on in hope does he then continue on with teaching about the “order of Melchisedec” in ch 7. He picks up from from chapter 5 where the frustration in his voice is heard “About this (the teaching of Melchisedec) we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become hard of hearing (falling into doubt and needing to be reminded of the hope of your salvation is only found on the foundation of God’s promise of the gospel)”. only after he addresses that does he continue on with the “much to say” in ch 7.

Paul did not say he would never tell them the rest of what he wanted to reveal to them about Melchisedec. He, at first, was frustrated at the interruption of his preaching, but by the end of ch 6, had shown his heart of love and bearing with where the people where at. Then after they were strengthened he continued to tell them the rest of the story of Jesus being after the order of Melchisedec.

I see this like a parent getting frustrated with their child when they are trying to teach them something new and they have to take time to reassure them of mom and dad’s love before continuing on with the new information they wanted them to learn. The parent doesnt say “I guess I’ll never tell you what I was going to tell you because of this interruption. You can’t focus on what I’m saying because you need reassurance of my love for you...so forget ever knowing the rest of what I was teaching you”. No! Paul takes the time to minister to their hearts before plowing on with his “deeper” teaching.

5/12/24

Heb 5:1-4

Heb 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Heb 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Heb 5:1 For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

Heb 5:2 He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness.

Heb 5:3 Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.

Heb 5:4 And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

God's perfect example in the Aaronical priesthood was to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward because he himself was weak and sinful. That foreshadowed the type of Priest who was to come. The only One who would offer Himself as a sacrifice and who could understand our weakness because He had been tempted...but was without sin. God sent His only begotten Son, He called Him...or sent Him to be obedient to experience this body of death so He could redeem those who He had chosen from before the foundation of the world. God could have chosen another way to redeem us, but He didn't. Jesus had to experience all of our weaknesses. He had to overcome so that we could overcome through Him. Both the Aaronical high priests and Jesus as our High Priest can sympathize with our weakness, but only Jesus has done something about it. The human high priest did not have a choice but to be born into the sin nature passed down from Adam. Those priests were appointed by God, but their sacrifices could not redeem anyone. Jesus chose to humble Himself and experience death in the flesh so that we could be saved.

5/13/24

Heb 5:5 So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you";

Heb 5:6 as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Jesus in His humanity did not exult Himself to the status of High Priest. He did not grab a position because He was entitled to it. He was the High Priest because the Son of God dwelt in and was one with His humanity. It was the Son of God that humbled Himself from His eternal glory with the the Father, and became the High Priest. That status was lower than His status from all eternity. The Son of God humbled Himself and became man. In His humanity He was exalted to the position of the High Priest. That position required the humility of death on the cross to complete the mission of God the Son. This position embodies or proves the truth of Jesus being fully man and fully God. Which is a glorious mystery. A greater mystery is how, because of Jesus' death and resurrection, the Spirit of the Living God can dwell in us. With all of our sin and weakness. He has exalted us higher than we deserve even before He makes us perfect on the other side of eternity. Even as we grapple with our sin nature, He still chooses to humble Himself and live in jars of clay until the trumpet blows and we are made completely perfect. I wonder if we'll hear the words "It is finished" again as our bodies are made new in an instant? I wonder what greater depth of understanding of this union of God and man that we'll know at the moment when our face meets His in all His glory? Amazing love. Amazing grace.

5/15/24

Heb 5:7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.

Heb 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

[Heb 5:9](#) And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

[Heb 5:10](#) being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Loud cries and tears. The Garden of Gethsemene is the reason Jesus can assist, support, comfort, and understand us in our time of need. He died on the cross, yes, but He first died in the garden. He walked through the experience of laying His life down right there in that place of surrender. His human will offered up as a sacrifice in that place...to the point where He could say "I lay My life down freely. No one takes it from Me."

The thing here in v9 is puzzling. How could Jesus be made perfect when He was the Son of God and already perfect? There was nothing lacking in Him...the scriptures said He sinned not. John Owen has a good explanation...he wrote that the perfection talked about here was the Son of God experiencing humanity and being obedient to God the Father during the days of His flesh. The perfection here does not mean that He was not already perfect, but He was now able to be the High Priest after the order of Melchisedec because He laid His life and will down right here. This is what I believe because it does not go against any other truths about Jesus written in the Bible.

Fully God. Fully man. Without sin. Incredible.

We will never know the depths of His cry or tears in that place. His grief and suffering—the depth of surrender is simply too deep a well for us to truly sympathize with fully. But because of that He is able to sympathize with us no matter the severity of our own pain, suffering, or temptation.

Thank you Jesus

5/17/24

[Heb 5:11](#) Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

[Heb 5:12](#) For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

[Heb 5:13](#) For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

[Heb 5:14](#) But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

This talking about knowing God and spiritual growth. Ro 8:28 says "all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose." Jesus' death worked for His good, but it worked mostly for our good. The things we have to walk through in this life..the

hard things and the more comfortable things..are all working for our good which is working into us more of who Jesus is, and showing us more of who God is.

Paul had been trying to show the people who Jesus was: The High Priest. But they had not grown spiritually to the point that they desired to truly know who He was. The main thing the high priest did was offer sacrifices to God for the sins of himself and others to obtain peace with God. That was a foreshadow of what Jesus did. He obtained peace with God for us by becoming our High Priest. We are only able to enter into peace with God...His rest...because of Jesus. The basic foundations of faith are more about what He has done for us and how we can be saved. Then after that our relationship with Him should grow into wanting to be at peace with Him. And our hope is in Him. That He will make all things beautiful or good in His time.

The “strong meat” also seems to be talking about self effort..saved by works. The next section sound alot like the letter to the Galatians where Paul, in essence, said “why are you now depending on yourself to be sanctified? Who tricked you into believing your own good works would cause a peace with God to happen in our soul. Just as you hoped in Jesus for salvation...hope in Him for your sanctification (being made more like Him)” That is our hope. That is our rest in God: He alone can and does change our inner man into more and more like Jesus. He is the one in control of all things. All circumstances and situations in our life for His glory.

Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this will we do, if God permit.

It is a security of salvation and the hope of the promise of God for sanctification by His Spirit while we are at peace with Him. His love for us changes us like no other thing can. Amen

5/18/24

5/18/24

Discerning between good and evil.

Heb 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Ro 12:2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

I do not think that reading the Bible, understanding it, listening to sermons and teachings will get us to the place of knowing God’s will and discerning between good and evil. There is nothing in myself that can make any kind of good decision. No matter how hard I try to apply and get it right...I am absolutely incapable of applying what I hear in the Bible or anointed preaching and teaching by my own thoughts or intellect. Oh, sure, after a span of decades in the Word...seeking

