

- Church Web Site

[www.tryonchurchofchrist.com](http://www.tryonchurchofchrist.com)

All sermons are posted here  
plus additional resources



A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

# Hebrews

is the only book  
in the New Testament  
to teach that Jesus  
is our  
High Priest.

- You may be asking, Why do we need to study about Jesus, the High Priest?
- Isn't that Old Testament material?
  - Yes, it is.
  - So let's find out why the book of Hebrews spends so much time on the subject.

- What do you know about the priest hood?

- Why is it important anyway?

- It's important because it teaches a lesson about ourselves.
  - A lesson we had rather not dwell on.
  - And what lesson might that be?

- Until we gain an adequate sense of the overwhelming **purity of Jesus**
- And a true perspective of **our sinful self** and unworthiness.
- We are not in a position to **appreciate** why we need a high priest.

- **It is our failure**  
on these two points  
that makes the idea  
of a priesthood  
**unfamiliar**  
and  
**without significance**  
to us.



- One of the reasons that the Old Testament **is indispensable** to understanding the New Testament is exactly here,
  - It provides us with a sense of the **sovereignty**, **majesty**, and **purity** of God,

- And on the other hand, it confronts us with the reality of our failures and needs.
- In the light of these two points, the importance of sacrifices and priests readily emerges.

- One of the most important **spiritual truths** that you can learn is :
- Growth in the Christian life **requires** gaining a clearer understanding **of who God is** and **who I am.**
- Once you understand this it will drive you in desperation **to the cross of Jesus Christ.**

- This is why Paul gloried in the cross.  
(**Galatians 6:14**):
- He saw God as the one who dwells in unapproachable light.  
(**1 Timothy 6:16**)
- He saw himself as the chief of sinners,
- And he saw the cross as the place where he found mercy  
(**1 Timothy 1:14-16**).

- None of us will seek God until we first become displeased with ourselves as sinners.
- We always see ourselves righteous, upright wise and holy.

- So when do we see ourselves otherwise.
- It is only when we see Jesus, the sinless one.  
(**Hebrews 4:15**)
- We must first look into the face of God.
- Then look into ourselves.
  - Until one does that there is no hope.

- If you intend to get the full meaning of Hebrews and Jesus our High Priest.
- You must see the absolute holiness of God.

- And a deeper insight into your own **sinfulness** and **uncleanness.**
- Until then you feed on **milk** and not **meat.**  
(**Hebrews 5:13-14**)



- This will lead you into a deeper appreciation of what Jesus did for you on the cross

- And a deeper appreciation of God's holiness

and your own sinfulness.

- Due to **pride** we see ourselves as **righteous** and **upright** and **wise** and **holy**.
- ***Pride goes before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.***  
**(Proverbs 16:18)**
- ***Though the LORD is exalted, he takes note of the lowly, and recognizes the proud from far away.***  
**(Psalm 138:6)**

- If men are not prideful sinners, separated from a holy God, then there is no need for priests.

- Romans 3:23

**For all have sinned,  
and come short of  
the glory of God.**

- What does Paul mean by the term:  
**“Glory of God”**
- Humans were made in God's image  
**which was not true**  
of any other created thing.  
**(Genesis 1:26-27)**

- Humans were **to fellowship** with the God.
- Evidenced by **Adam** & **Eve** talking with God.  
(**Genesis 3:8**)
- But **sin** damaged the relationship.
  - **Now what?**

- God ordained a priesthood to bridge the gap

between man and God.

- You will find that story in the book of Exodus.

- What qualifies Jesus  
to be our  
high priest?
- That will be  
our quest  
for today.

- **# 1.** THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR HUMAN HIGH PRIESTS WERE TO **MEDIATE** BETWEEN MEN AND GOD, (**Hebrews 5:1**)
- **# 2** TO **SYMPATHIZE** WITH HIS FELLOW SINNERS, (**Hebrews 5:2-3**)
- **# 3** AND TO BE **CALLED** BY GOD TO THE OFFICE (**Hebrews 5:4**).



- **Why do we need a mediator?**
  - ***“Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”***  
**(Isaiah 59:2)**

- **Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:**  
(**Isaiah 59:1**)

- **Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression**  
(**Isaiah 58:1**)

- No Jew was free to enter the Holy of Holies to meet directly with God.
  - Even the high priest could only go in once a year on the Day of Atonement,
    - And very carefully at that, or God would kill him instantly.  
(**Leviticus 16:2**)

- The task of making offerings was reserved for the priests.
  - Israel's first king, Saul, took it upon himself to offer sacrifices,
  - And for this presumption, God removed the kingdom from Saul's descendants and gave it to David (**1 Samuel 13:1-14**).

- King Uzziah,  
who was otherwise  
a godly king,  
presumed to take incense  
and offer it before the Lord.

- As a result,  
God struck him instantly  
with leprosy  
(**2 Chronicles 26:16-21**).

- The entire Jewish **sacrificial system,**
- But especially the **Day of Atonement,** underscored the problem **of human sinfulness** in the presence of the most holy God.

- Without the **appropriate sacrifice**, sinners could not approach God or be reconciled to Him.
- God designed all of this **to point ahead to the person** and **work** of Jesus Christ,
  - Who is the **Lamb of God**
- The **perfect** and **final sacrifice** for our sins.

- You and I  
cannot be  
reconciled to God  
until we see  
our great need  
as a sinner.



- The gospel is not,  
“If you’ve got  
a few problems,  
try Jesus.  
He can help you.”

- That’s  
NOT  
how it works.

- **10** *Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.*
- **11**, *The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank you, that I am not as other men are, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.*
- **12**, *I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.*  
(**Luke 18: 10-12**)

- He did not really go to pray to God.
  - He prayed with himself.
  - True prayer is always offered to God and to God alone.

- His whole attitude was not untypical of a Pharisee.
- It is on record that Rabbi Simeon ben Jocai once said,
  - ***"If there are only two righteous men in the world, I and my son are these two;***
  - ***If there is only one, I am he!"***

- The Pharisee did not really go to pray;
- He went to inform God how good he was.
- How many are like that today?

- There was a **tax-collector.**
- He stood afar off, and would not even lift his eyes to God.
- The **KJV** and **RSV** do not even do justice to his humility **for he actually prayed,**
- "***O God, be merciful to me***  
**--the sinner,**"

- It is that awareness of your true condition that causes you to cry out, with the publican in Luke 18:13

- **“God, be merciful to me, the sinner”**

- Not merely a sinner,
  - But, like Paul  
“Chief of sinners”
- And what did Jesus say?
  - "And," said Jesus,  
*"it was that heart-broken,  
self-despising prayer  
which won him acceptance  
before God."*



- **What** do we learn about from this parable?
  - **# 1** No man can pray who is **proud**.
- *The gate of heaven is so low that none can enter it save upon his knees.*  
(W. Barclay)

- **# 2** No man who despises his brother can pray.

- *And it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.*

(**Genesis 4:8**)

- We must remember that we are all great sinners kneeling before the throne of God's mercy.

- When you set your live beside the life of Jesus

- And beside the holiness of God,

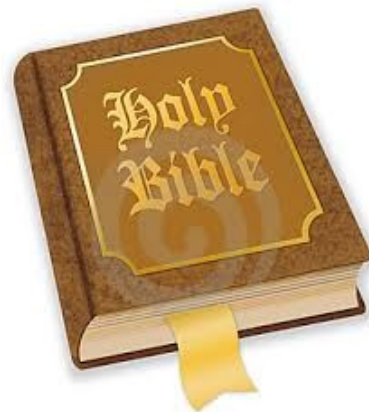
- All that is left to say is,  
"***God be merciful to me***  
***--the sinner.***"

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church  
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride  
Say  
“Come”.**

**Revelation 22:17**



- 09-04-2022 Tryon, NC

-