

Jesus, Our Chosen High Priest

Hebrews 5:1-11

“God wants his people perfect, holy and clean. This is the goal of our redemption, viz., to be made as perfect as Christ Himself. He has predestined us to be ultimately “conformed to the image of his Son” (Rom. 8:29). This will not be fully realized until Jesus comes, but the process must begin here and continue progressively. And this can only be attained as we utilize the all-sufficient and adequate provision God has made for our sanctification. He has therefore provided a Mediator, a High Priest who ever liveth to make intercession for us. Jesus is not only the Savior of sinners, but the interceding High Priest for the keeping of the saints. The very fact that we need someone to intercede for us continually at the right hand of God is irrefutable proof that we are not yet perfect and sinless. Our high Priest has one duty, to make intercession for the sins of the people, to apply the cleansing blood. If believers were able to live absolutely perfect lives in sinless perfection, there would be no need for Christ to continually intercede in our behalf.” DeHaan

- I. Jesus, our one and only High Priest, was appointed by God the Father to represent us before him. Without his representation, we would have no one to speak in our defense when we sin. The likelihood of us sinning, even as redeemed saints, is 100% certain. In other words, it is impossible for us not to sin until we have been freed from our innate sin nature, either through death or by the rapture (Maranatha). Jesus is in constant intercession for each one of us knowing the difficulties and temptations we face while living in this godless world. When we sin, he speaks in our defense. He is our advocate who loves us very deeply and is doing everything in his power to bring us through this life and into the Father's kingdom. The response he expects from us, is to confidently come to him knowing that he'll give us the mercy and grace necessary to stand firm in the faith.

Heb. 4:15-16

Rev. 12:10

Heb. 7:25

1 Jn. 1:8-10

1 Jn. 2:1-2

“Satan the accuser desires to remind believers of their sin and their unworthiness of a place in God's family and in this way sow doubt into their hearts and minds. Satan wants to make Christians fear for their salvation and forget God's love and faithfulness. Satan says, “Look at your sinfulness”; God says, “Look to Jesus, the author and finisher of your faith”. gotquestions.org

- II. Jesus had to meet the requirements of a High Priest before he could represent us before God. He had to live a sinless life, sacrifice himself and be raised from the dead to become a High Priest who is constantly before the Father interceding for us. His atoning death meant that he became a **penal substitute** for us by bearing the penalty of our sin. It was a **substitutionary atonement**, in that he was a substitute in our place as an atoning sacrifice for our sins, and it was a **vicarious atonement**, in that as our representative he took the penalty that we deserve. He appeased the wrath of God against our sin (**propitiation**), he made peace with God on our behalf (**reconciliation**), and he redeemed us from the bondage of sin and Satan's blinding influence.

Heb. 5:1-6

Heb. 9:25-26

1 Jn. 4:10

2 Cor. 5:18-19

1 cor. 6:20

Rom. 5:8

Whenever you see the adjective penal, you'll know it has to do with court-ordered punishment. A government's penal code, for example, is a list of crimes and the punishments imposed for each of them. You might notice how similar penal is to the word penalty — in fact, they both stem from the same Latin word, poena, and the Greek root poine, both of which mean "punishment." vocabulary.com

- III. Hebrews 5:7-8 give us an understanding of how Jesus was thinking as he thought about the physical, spiritual, and emotional abuse he was about to go through so that he could be better able to sympathize with our weakness. He endured that, and so much more, so that we could run to him for comfort, mercy, grace, wisdom and understanding to help us endure the hardships we go through. As the source of our eternal salvation, he freely offers himself for our comfort so that we in turn can be a comfort to others as he ministers to and through us.

Heb. 5:7-10

Ps. 15:8-11

2 Cor. 1:3-4 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*