

## *Drawing Near to God*

### *Hebrews 7:1-19*

*“When we are tempted to take the patronage of the world, He reminds us we don’t need the friendship of unbelievers, for we have Him. As Melchisedec [sic] brought forth the bread and wine to strengthen Abraham, so he has given us the Lord’s Supper as a memorial of His victorious death and resurrection. To us it often seems that we must cooperate with the world and compromise with unbelievers to succeed. To take a separated stand for Christ may mean loss of popularity, of material things, even poverty and bankruptcy. We are tempted to tolerate the evil practices of the world, to indulge in some borderline, shady practices, to excuse some questionable social or business practices to keep our customers, water down our testimony for fear of offending those whom we feel can be of some help to us. But God says, no! Trust Me, be out-and-out for Me, and touch not the unclean thing. It may seem that the cost of a separated walk is too high, but if we dare to trust Him, He will not fail but will reward us with blessings here and by and by, which will make all our sacrifices here seem like worthless trinkets and toys which break into fragments at our touch.” DeHaan*

- I. One of the strongest messages coming out the book of Hebrews and its emphasis on the supremacy of Christ is moving from infancy in our faith to maturity. It’s coming to an understanding that God expects, even commands, that we contend for the faith that was entrusted to us his holy people. Of the seven churches Jesus writes to in the book of Revelation, only two truly contended for the faith, Smyrna and Philadelphia. The others didn’t. In other words, the ways of the world became more important to them than the kingdom of God. Or, to put it another way, they didn’t care to mature in Christ, so they lost their ability to distinguish between good and evil.

Heb. 5:14

Heb. 6:18-20

Psalms 110

**Jude 3** *Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people.*

- II. Abram provides an example of someone who knew the value of training and being prepared for war. His actions enabled him to stand in the gap, go into battle and rescue the prisoners and their possessions from their oppressors. The temptation would have been for Abram to take credit for the victory and in turn, take the spoils of war that were rightfully his. Melchizedek, a type of Christ, provides us with an example of when peace and righteousness reached out to preserve Abram's testimony of being a righteous man without compromise. God sent him to enable Abram to give credit to the one who truly won the battle for him, God himself. His reward in doing so was the Lord's eternal protection from his enemies.

Heb. 7:1-10  
Gen. 14:11-24  
Ps. 85:10  
2 Cor. 5:17

*"In biblical study, a type refers to an Old Testament person, practice, or ceremony that has a counterpart, an antitype in the New Testament. In that sense types are predictive. The type pictures, the antitype. The type, though it is historical and real, and of God, is nonetheless imperfect and temporary. The antitype, on the other hand, is perfect and eternal. The study of types and antitypes is called, as one might expect, typology." MacArthur.*

**Isa. 66:3** *This is the one I esteem, he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.*

**Gen. 15:1** *After this, the word of the Lord came to Abraham in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."*

- III. There is nothing we can depend on apart from that Lord that isn't weak and, in the end, useless in helping us draw near to him as our shield and very great reward. We are told that if we draw near to him, he'll draw near to us. It requires a sincere desire to become his disciple, his pupil who will teach us and give us the ability to distinguish between good and evil. He is the only one who can give us the wisdom, clarity of thought and power to see through the confusing, ever shifting standard of this world so that we can stand victorious through him for his honor and glory.

Heb. 7:11-19

**James 4:8** *Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded*