

Problem:

Phil 3:8-17 maturity is hard, its hard to see the prize and the provision, and we are tempted to either give up the journey and to settle for an easier path (lawlessness) or to settle for a lesser goal, a subjective holiness that finds its power in its contrast with others. (the law, legalism)

Text:

Melchizedek's Priesthood

Heb. 7:1 ¶ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

Heb. 7:2 and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, **king of righteousness**, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, **king of peace**.

Heb. 7:3 He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but **resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever** (*continuously presenting a type that foreshadows Christ*).

Heb. 7:4 ¶ **See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils!**

Heb. 7:5 And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham.

Heb. 7:6 But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

Heb. 7:7 **It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.**

Heb. 7:8 In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives.

Heb. 7:9 One might even say that **Levi** himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham,

Heb. 7:10 for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

Genesis 14:17-20 - the story -and its lack of details is important

The similarity, then, is not between Melchizedek and Christ; it is between Melchizedek as he is presented in Genesis 14, and Christ.

Aaron's Priesthood

Heb. 7:11 ¶ Now if perfection had been attainable through **the Levitical priesthood** (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after **the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron?**

Heb. 7:12 For when there is **a change in the priesthood**, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.

Heb. 7:13 For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar.

Heb. 7:14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

Gal, 3:1-3, 24-25 - change in priesthood

Christ's Priesthood

Heb. 7:15 ¶ This becomes even more evident when **another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek**,

Heb. 7:16 who has become a priest, not on the basis of a **legal requirement** concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life.

Heb. 7:17 For it is witnessed of him,

“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

appointed on the basis of His character and work - Phil 2:6-11

Aaron's priesthood was imperfect (desires too weak)

Heb. 7:18 ¶ For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness

Heb. 7:19 (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a **better hope** is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

(18) Col 2:20-23; - our desires are too low -we desire imperfection -

(19) This is God's goal - Matt 5:20, 48; 19:21

Aaron's priesthood was temporary (desires too weak)

Heb. 7:20 ¶ And it was not without **an oath**. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath,

Heb. 7:21 but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him:

"The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,
'You are a priest forever.'"

Heb. 7:22 ¶ This makes Jesus the guarantor **of a better covenant**.

[(Ps110) - declared by oath -both KING AND PRIEST (as opposed to king Saul 1 Sam. 13:7-15) and king Uzziah 2 Chron. 26:16-21)]

Mark 12:35-37 - Jesus knew His role as the permanent guarantee that God's forgiveness is ours ->God setting aside the Levitical line -God had intended all along to set aside the whole

Mosaic system

a better covenant - 2 Cor 3:7-18 - we are to be like Him

Aaron's priests died (desires too weak)

Heb. 7:23 ¶ The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,

Heb. 7:24 but **he holds his priesthood permanently**, because he continues forever.

Heb. 7:25 Consequently, **he is able to save to the uttermost** those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

intercession - Luke 22:31-32 - definitely answered

saved to the uttermost Rom. 8:26-34 -intercession(sanctification) - to the uttermost - both the Son and the H.Spirit -God working out every circumstance for His glory and your sanctification

Aaron's priests were never finished (desires too weak)

Heb. 7:26 ¶ For it was **indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest**, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

Heb. 7:27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this **once for all when he offered up himself**. (mass)

Heb. 7:28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a **Son who has been made perfect forever**. (always able to know what it felt like to be forsaken by God to feel alone and condemned)

Heb 10:11-14 - Christ sat down

fitting - Hebrews 2:10, 14-18; - how important is our maturity?

It was fitting that we would have a holy, innocent, unstained, separated and exalted high priest because that is precisely what we are to become.

-Holy - 1 Peter 1:13-16

-innocent - Phil 2:14-16

-unstained and separated - 2 Cor 6:14-18

-exalted - 1 Peter 5:6-7

Main Idea:

His priesthood proves the importance of our journey and promises the certainty of our arrival
God doesn't paint junk- Eph 2:10; and He will finish what He started - Phil 1:6

Implication:

the problem is that the goal sometimes feels too far away and we do not feel progress and we are so tempted to turn to broken cisterns that cannot accomplish His work - we are tempted to turn to the gimmicks and tricks the world sells us - buying stuff, throwing parties, having fun... and when things go bad we are tempted to turn to bad advice, and false religions that give an illusion of progress and steps where the temptation to subjective righteousness is so great.

Application:

what should we do? Heb 4:14-16 - hold fast -we should stay the course toward maturity, drawing near to the throne of grace- waiting on Him to supply our need

Action:

Remain obedient and
rely on Him when you have no strength.
rely on Him when you are low.
rely on Him when you are weary
rely on Him when you are faint

His priesthood is real, His comfort is real, and the outcome is certain - He will renew your strength, you will mount up like an eagle, and you will run and not grow weary and you will walk and not grow faint

His priesthood proves the importance of our journey and promises the certainty of our arrival

Last week i urged you to take a look at the road- today i want to ask you to look at taking steps of maturity on the road - specifically in the areas of evangelism and worship...

I say it regularly - your maturity as a disciple is the means of us making more disciples. Your maturity means evangelism is happening in your life, it means bible study is happening in your life, it means a real investment in the people of the church is happening in your life, and it means that real worship of God through service is happening in your life. Our High Priest guarantees that God will help us in our pursuit of these things.

I believe God- we have no plan b- you are it- i am praying for you all and that i have done what i can to equip you for the work of the ministry - pray and take personally every empty seat, every unmet need, every faltering saint in this church. This is your time and all our eggs are in one basket - that God will use you all who we have been investing in.

discuss ways to evangelize individually and as a group - think seriously about it and get excited - your 242 group is much like a core group from back in the day for this week— plan how to evangelize and plan specifically how to worship God by purposely loving people made in His image. Please don't waste this time and please take seriously the journey you are on and the task we have been given.

discuss the following article about groups (being that we base them on sermon studies our groups are neither open nor closed but get why you can from the article - the suggestions are still great):

Fitting - Sermon Study - Hebrews 7

<http://thomrainer.com/2014/01/07/four-ways-to-make-your-small-group-evangelistic/>

here is an article listing some great ways to worship God through service - a major step in maturity is when we can organize to do this - the article lists these as ways to evangelize, which may happen, but the act itself is a way to love God by loving others which is worship. discuss these and try to plan at least one activity to do as a group. maybe you could try to do something like this regularly. Its worship so have at it:

<http://helenafirst.com/pdf/seProjectsTable.pdf>

http://www.30hourfamine.org/resources-to-plan-your-famine/service-projects/?cons_id=0&ts=1410736987&signature=51db3434d175aabba3dd8d6a7b159980

please have someone from your group share on the church facebook page what you guys are going to do so we can pray and celebrate with you what God is doing in your lives.

try to be stretched and rely on Christ