



The Message of Hebrews
ENDURANCE

JESUS MORE THAN QUALIFIES Hebrews 4:14-7:28

In the Christian life, circumstances can arise which make us think that it's not worth it, that Christianity doesn't really live up to its promises, that it isn't really enough. Do you ever think this? Where does the pressure come from?

The early Jewish Christians who first read this letter were obviously going through their own time of struggle. They were being tempted to think that Jesus isn't enough, that full confidence in him is not warranted, and that He doesn't really help us in life. So the writer of this letter wants to provide encouragement – so they keep their hope in Him. As we go through this part of Hebrews, we'll realise we don't face exactly the same sort of pressures as the original readers did, but this is still a word we need to hear so that we 'hold firmly to the faith we profess' (4:14) and not suffer the absolute tragedy of 'falling away' from our faith in Jesus Christ (6:6).

Read Hebrews 4:14-7:28

From your reading of this section, what's the pressure that the original readers are facing? They were Jewish Christians so what part of Jewish practice were they being tempted to go back to?

In this part of Hebrews the writer explains that Jesus is a priest, as in a priest like Israel had throughout it's history, but he also spends a lot of time showing that Jesus is a vastly different and superior priest. Fill in the table below from what we learn in 4:14-5-9.

The similarities between Jesus and the priests of the past	The difference between Jesus and the priests of the past
5:1	4:14
5:2	4:15
5:4-5	Compare 5:1 and 5:7

Who is Jesus compared to in 5:10?

Melchizedek only played a small part in the history of Israel. He's only mentioned in three verses in Genesis. But he obviously loomed large in people's thinking of what a future figure sent from God would look like. He's mentioned in Psalm 110 and here in Hebrews.

Read Genesis 14:18-20, Psalm 110 then Hebrews 7:1-10. What's the point that's being made about Melchizedek in these verses of Hebrews?

According to Hebrews 7:11-17, how is Jesus like Melchizedek?

How were the old priests appointed? 7:16, 8:28

How was Jesus the high priest appointed? 7:16, 20-21; 8:28

According to 7:23-27, how is Jesus' priesthood vastly superior to the old and now out of date priesthood?

Priesthood is about dealing with sin. It's about bringing people into a right relationship with God despite their sin. For the original readers of Hebrews, it seems they were being pressured to move from their faith and obedience to Jesus the high priest, and move back to the old (and useless) approach of the Old Testament law-established priesthood.

Today – how are we told by others to have the problem of our sin/selfishness dealt with?

If Jesus isn't our great eternal high priest who deals with the problem of our sin, who is he according to people we hear today?

Read Hebrews 6:1-8. What warning are we given if we ever move from our allegiance to Jesus?

Why do you think it's impossible to have a person restored once they have fallen away from God and let go of their faith in Him?

As Christians, what confidence can we have if we approach God through Jesus Christ? 4:16 and 7:25

How much comfort and assurance does this give you?



Giving Your Story: Sundays 7 and 14 March, 300-430pm

Come along to the Swanns house over 2 Sundays for a relaxing arvo tea. And bring the kids for some fun. There will be training offered on how to give your own story on how you became a follower of Jesus. Being able to say this clearly and briefly, when the opportunity arises, is a great skill to have as part of sharing the good news with others.