

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for September 13, 2015

Melchizedek's Priesthood Trumped Aaron's Priesthood
Hebrews 7:26-28

The author in Hebrews 7:11-28 explained why it was necessary for Aaron's priesthood to be replaced by Christ's priesthood which was according to the order of Melchizedek.

It was necessary because Aaron's priesthood could not bring about "perfection" (Hebrews 7:11-14).

It was necessary because the replacement of Aaron's priesthood provided a "better hope" (Hebrews 7:15-19).

It was necessary because God had sworn to Christ an oath that His priesthood would be forever (Hebrews 7:20-22).

It was necessary because Aaron's priesthood, unlike Christ's priesthood, could never provide a permanent priest (Hebrews 7:23-25).

It was necessary because Christ's priesthood was "fitting" for us and Aaron's priesthood was not (Hebrews 7:26-28).

The word "fitting" (PREPO) means "suitable."

The sinlessness of Christ is what makes Christ's priesthood fitting or suitable; for apart from Christ's sinlessness He would not have been able to solve our sin problem (Hebrews 7:26-28).

The sinlessness of Christ was highlighted by the author's description of Christ's character (Hebrews 7:26).

The word "holy" (HOSIOS) signifies devout, pious, pleasing to God.

The word "innocent" (AKAKOS) signifies freedom from guile, duplicity, deception.

The word undefiled (AMANTOS) signifies pure, unstained.

The sinlessness of Christ was also highlighted by the author's description of Christ's separated and exalted position in glory (Hebrews 7:26).

The best way to understand "separated from sinners" is as a spatial or physical separation brought about by Christ being "exalted above the heavens."

The sinlessness of Christ was finally highlighted by the author's description of the effectiveness of Christ's sacrifice in contrast to the ineffectiveness of the former high priests' sacrifices (Hebrews 7:27).

The reason why Christ does not have to continually offer up sacrifices though He is representing us on a daily basis is because His sacrifice of Himself was effective or in other words it was a "once for all" sacrifice.

He was able to offer up a once for all sacrifice because He, both as God's appointed high priest and a sacrifice for sin, was sinless.

The author in Hebrews 7:28 concluded the section that he had begun in Hebrews 5:1 concerning Christ's appointment as high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Christ was made perfect forever in the sense that what He suffered and had passed through in terms of His death, burial, and resurrection, as well as His exaltation without ever committing sin, perfectly qualified Him to be our forever heavenly high priest.

May God give us the grace to grow in our understanding and appreciation of the importance of Christ's sinlessness so that the splendor of Christ's beauty might shine even that much brighter as we behold Him.