



For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

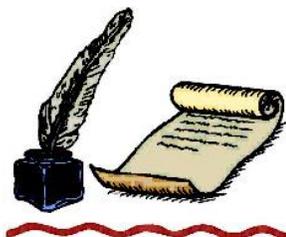
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The Greatest High Priest – Part Two

Last week we began a brief study of Hebrews 7:26-27, we noticed the first three words that are used to describe our High priest, Jesus Christ. In this article we will look at the remaining three.



The fourth term or phrase used is “separate from sinners.” Now, we know that Christ did associate with sinners. Notice Luke 15:1-2, “Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled saying, ‘This man receives sinners and eats with them.’” (See also Mark 2:13-17). When we read that Christ was separate from sinners it is not talking about his association with them. It means that He did not conform to their ways, plans, or desires. He kept Himself, whole, perfect and unspotted from the world (James 1:27).

The fifth phrase is “made higher than the heavens.” During the first gospel sermon Peter stated, “Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.” (Acts 2:33). This is a statement that could not be said of any other High Priest. Christ is the only one that has been exalted above the heavens. As the writer of Hebrews later writes, “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (12:2). Our High Priest is superior to all others because He is on the right hand of God.

The sixth and final statement is the entirety of verse 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.” Christ is the greatest High Priest because He does not have to give inferior sacrifices, He gave Himself. While He was on this earth He said, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45). It is because of the sacrifice of Christ that we can have our sins washed away.

Our High Priest is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, made higher than the heavens, and gave Himself for us. What a privilege it is to serve Him!

Renn Ferguson

Mark 2:13-17

- 13 Then He went out again by the sea; and all the multitude came to Him, and He taught them.
- 14 As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.
- 15 Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him.
- 16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?"
- 17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.