

**Jesus is Better**  
Hebrews 7

At one time or another all of us are tempted to try to make life work apart from Jesus. We might experience opposition for our faith. We might experience some other kind of difficulty in walking with Jesus that moves us in this direction. Or maybe we just get distracted by life. Regardless, we can be tempted to try to make life work apart from Jesus. For the Hebrews, due to the stress and persecution that they faced for following Christ, they were tempted to turn back to their Jewish background. They were tempted to return to living under the law even though they had experienced something far better in Christ. They needed a fresh vision of Jesus. They needed to be reminded that Jesus truly is better. For most of us, we too need a fresh vision of how great Jesus is from time to time. May our study help each of us become convinced once again that Jesus is better.

**Read Genesis 14:17-20; Hebrews 5:9-10; 6:19-20; 7:1-10**

1. What is the author seeking to demonstrate about Jesus through his discussion of Melchizedek?

**Read Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 7:11-19**

2. What is the point of Psalm 110:4 (which the writer of Hebrews uses several times in chapter 7)?
3. What was the problem with the Levitical priesthood and the Law it administered?

**Read Hebrews 7:20-28**

4. What does this teach about Jesus? In what ways is Jesus better than the Levitical priesthood?

Brian said:

Jesus, who knows you perfectly, who knows all the stuff that is going on in your life, is interceding for you right now. He is praying for your complete salvation. He is praying that the merits of what He accomplished for you through His death and resurrection would be worked out into your life. Maybe he is praying exactly what he prayed for Peter [i.e. in Luke 22:31-32], that your faith would not fail.

5. How does it encourage you to know that right now Jesus is praying for you (v. 25)?

6. Brian encouraged us to spend some time wondering about what Jesus is praying for us. How might that be helpful?

Brian said:

Because of Jesus' sinless nature, he was able to offer up what verse 27 calls the *once for all* sacrifice of himself. He was the perfect and sufficient sacrifice *for the sins of the people*. Through His perfect sacrifice he put an end to the whole sacrificial system of the Old Covenant. There is no need for another sacrifice. He has fully dealt with sin through his one perfect sacrifice of Himself. If you have trusted Jesus for salvation, He had made a once for all payment for your sin. It is sufficient. Sometimes we have doubts about whether God has really forgiven us, especially in those areas of habitual sin that we continue to struggle with. Jesus' perfect sacrifice has paid for that sin.

7. Do you ever find yourself struggling to believe that you really are forgiven for all your sin? If so, how does this passage encourage you?

8. One commentator speaking of Hebrews 7 says, "Each of the Christological emphases reflects the writer's desire to provide an interpretation of Jesus that will address the community directly in terms of the realities of their lives, offering them a basis for encouragement and strength necessary to sustain them in a period marked by stress." What emphasis in this passage is most encouraging to you right now?

9. How does this passage encourage you to keep enduring in your faith?