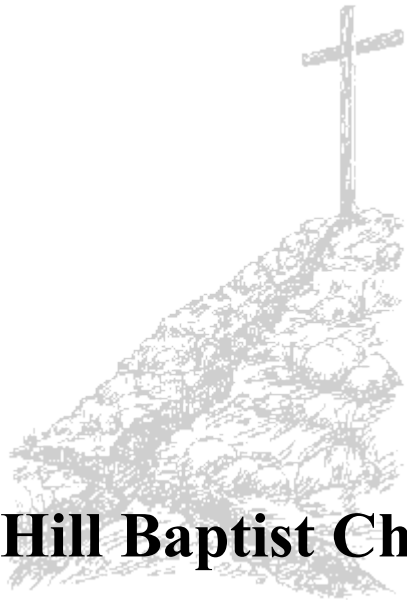


After The Order of Melchisedek

Hebrews 5:8-14



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FOCAL (Hebrews 5:9-14 KJV) "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; {10} Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedek. {11} Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. {12} For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. {13} For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. {14} But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

1. Jesus Christ Is A High Priest After The Order of Melchisedek

FOCAL (Hebrews 5:9-10 KJV) "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; {9} And being made perfect¹, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; {10} Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedek."

Jesus Christ came to this earth to accomplish one major function: to offer salvation to all who believe in Him. By His own blood He provided a bridge between God and

¹ Aorist Passive Participle teleioo {pronounced tel-i-o'-o}, having reached completion or the goal. Jesus Christ completed His work on earth, though the Passive Voice recognizes that He received the action of the verb. In other words, His work was *declared* complete by God the Father.

man. As the Scripture says:

a The Blood brought peace between God and man:
Ephesians 2:13-20

(Ephesians 2:13-20 KJV) "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. {14} For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; {15} Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; {16} And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: {17} And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. {18} For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. {19} Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; {20} And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;"

Jesus Christ *is our Peace*, and He brought us - by His sacrifice - into the Family of God. This is important, and I'll talk about this again very soon. We are in the Family of God by faith in Christ Jesus, and because we are in that Family we share all things with Christ our Savior and Lord.

The phrase "**being made perfect**" in our text is literally "having reached completion". Jesus Christ has and will always be *perfect* in the sense that He was without sin. The context of Hebrews even tells us this:

b Jesus Christ's Blood was sinless, and thus paid the price of peace: **Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 9:28**

(Hebrews 4:15 KJV) "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

(Hebrews 9:28 KJV) "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

What the phrase "**being made perfect or complete**" means is not that Jesus was in an imperfect state and, then through hard work, reached perfection. No Beloved, that text means that **Jesus Christ *completed the task that was set before Him*, the redemption of our souls, and *God declared that Jesus reached His goal through our Lord's resurrection from the dead***. The Resurrection was the Father's way of showing us that the work of the Cross was acceptable. Jesus made payment - and God accepted that payment.

c The Father accepted the Son's sacrifice and *showed it*

by raising Him from the dead: **Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:12-17**

(Romans 1:4 KJV) "[Jesus was] ... declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:"

(1 Corinthians 15:12-17 KJV) "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? {13} But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: {14} And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. {15} Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. {16} For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: {17} And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins."

The **Resurrection of Christ is a pivotal doctrine for the Christian**. Since the Father raised the Son from the dead, this was His way of saying "the Cross is acceptable". The purchase price for our salvation is the Blood of Christ, and that price was accepted - the Resurrection proves it.

Now we have said that **Christ came to provide salvation for all who believe in Him**. We have also said that **God has shown that He accepted this sacrifice by Christ's resurrection**. Having covered these two great truths *found in the Doctrine of Christ* we see another truth.

2. The Christian Is A Believer-Priest Because Of Christ Our High Priest

FOCAL (Hebrews 5:12-14 KJV) "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. {13} For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. {14} But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

The Author of our Salvation is a High Priest *after the order of Melchisedek*, a priesthood that predated the priesthood God established in Israel *under the Mosaic Law*. Now follow this, Beloved: Christ has made payment for our sins, God showing us that the payment was accepted by the resurrection. Further, Christ brought us into union with God through His great act. We share Christ's destiny in Heaven because of Him. The Scripture says:

d The Believer is equipped because of Christ: **1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 2:10**

1 Corinthians 8:6 (KJV) "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord

Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."

Colossians 2:10 (KJV) "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:"

But we who are in His family share not just His eternity, we *also share His priesthood*. The Bible tells us in Peter:

☉ The believer is a *king and a priest* because of Christ: **1 Peter 2:3-5, 9-10; Revelation 1:5-6; 20:6**

(1 Peter 2:3-5, 9-10 KJV) "If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. {4} To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, {5} Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. {9} But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;** that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: {10} Which **in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God:** which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

The Christian, saved by faith in Christ, is himself a *priest* before God. Jesus Christ is *our High Priest*, and we who believe in Him to salvation are *believer priests*².

² see also Revelation 1:5-6; 20:6

Christ is a High Priest *after the order of Melchisedek, not after the order of Levi*:

f Christ is a High Priest *after the order of Melchisedek, not after the order of Levi*: **Hebrews 7:14-17**

(Hebrews 7:14-17 KJV) "For it is evident that **our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.** {15} And it is yet far more evident: for that **after the similitude of Melchisedek there ariseth another priest,** {16} **Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.** {17} For he [God the Father] testifieth, Thou art **a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedek.**"

Our **Lord was born of the line of David, of the Tribe of Judah** - the ruling Tribe of Israel. He was **not born of Levi, nor was He from the root of Aaron**. His priesthood is of Melchisedek, the same figure that Abraham paid tithes³ to about 430 years *before the giving of the Mosaic Law*. The Christian, who has identity only because of Jesus Christ, is like his Savior *a priest after the order of Melchisedek, not after Levi*.

Once you understand this great truth you avoid many of the errors found in Christianity today. **Melchisedek lived**

³ see Genesis 14:18

about 430 years *prior* to the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. If we, like Jesus, are priests *after the order of Melchisedek* we are *no longer under the Law*. We are under Grace and under the Spirit. Many Churches have tried to institute or emulate those things which belong only to Israel and the Law. We must not do this! The Law was given to Israel because that nation refused salvation by faith. The Law was God's tool to *convict and lead* people to a knowledge that salvation is by *faith alone in Christ alone*. The Lord tells us in the Book of Galatians:

g We who are Christ's are *Believer-Priests* after the same order. We are not under Law, but under Grace and the Spirit: **Galatians 3:22-23; Galatians 3:24-26; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Matthew 5:20; Philipians 3:8-9; Titus 3:5-6**

(Galatians 3:22-23 KJV) "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. {23} But **before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.**"

The **Law pointed out our deficiencies**, our need for Christ. The Law pointed out to all that we *just couldn't be good enough* to get to God on our own. The Law was a system that showed us, over and over again, that we *need the Lord Jesus*. The Law stood over us as a schoolmaster and said to us, *condemned, guilty!* Those who have not Christ are yet shut up under the Law,

condemned, but **those who know Jesus Christ as Savior are no longer under that schoolmaster:**

(Galatians 3:24-26 KJV) "Wherefore the **law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.** {25} But after that faith is come, **we are no longer under a schoolmaster.** {26} For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

The **Law would not bring life, but it would bring us to life, to Jesus**. We no longer live our lives by Law, but we live our lives according to the Word, the Spirit, and by Love. The Christian, a believer-priest because of Jesus, is **freed to live his life in relationship to the Lord and to His people, the Church**. We live not by a series of Laws written on paper or tablet, but we live by faith -

2 Corinthians 3:3 (KJV) "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, **written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.**"

following the Spirit of God Who indwells us. **Under the Mosaic Law it was possible for someone to fake or mimic their relationship with God**. Follow the Law, walk according to a certain pattern set forth under the Priests of Levi, and all felt that you were in a right relationship with God. The Pharisees, often the most upright and righteous of those in Israel, were often condemned by

Jesus because of their outward ritualism but lack of inward relationship with God. The righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees was insufficient to bring a person into a saving relationship with God. Jesus said:

(Matthew 5:20 KJV) "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

The righteousness of man cannot bring a person into a right relationship to God. We **must have that righteousness that is given to us by faith in Christ.** The Apostle Paul, once a very Pharisee among Pharisees, rejected the righteousness of the Pharisees - which was found only in the Law - and reached for Jesus Christ by faith.

(Philippians 3:8-9 KJV) "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, {9} And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"

This *imputed righteousness*, the righteousness that Jesus bought for us on His Cross, is saving because it comes from God. It is **"Not by works of righteousness**

which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; {6} Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;" (Titus 3:5-6 KJV).

3. How Do I Live "In Christ"?

FOCAL (Hebrews 5:13-14 KJV) "For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. {14} But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who **by reason of use have their senses exercised⁴ to discern both good and evil."**

What are the operating parameters of the Christian way of life? How do we live for God, having no Mosaic Law to follow⁵? The **Christian, freed from the Mosaic Law, is not lawless or an anarchist.** One of the earlier heretical doctrines in the Church was that the Christian was freed from the Law so that he could do as he pleases within the realm of the flesh. This is a lie from Hell!

Though the **Christian is freed from the Mosaic Law, he is**

- 4 Perfect Passive Participle *gumnazo* {pronounced *goom-nad'-zo*}, to vigorously exercise so as to build up your muscles. Here refers to following the Christian disciplines.
- 5 **(James 2:10 KJV) "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."** The Law must be followed perfectly, or else you have broken it all. In our present age so many Christians try to follow parts of the Mosaic Law, and yet ignore other parts. For instance, some will say that we are yet under the Sabbath when we rest on Sunday, yet we do not follow the Sabbath as the ancients did. Nor do we obey the Sabbatical years, nor the special Sabbaths found all throughout Scripture. If we break God's Law in one point, we have broken all the Law!

surely and certainly a *part of the Family of God*. Unlike the ancient under the Law, we are members of that Royal Family. We have all the *blessings* of the Royal Family, but we also incur all the restrictions that any Child would have subject to the Father. Since God is Love, that is, a major part of His character is love (1 John 4:8, 16), children in the Family are indwelt by God - and the Love of God is in them. The great *charge that the Lord Jesus laid against the Pharisees* was that *the love of God was not in them*:

(John 5:42 KJV) "But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you."

h If you are saved God is in you and you are in God. The first exercise of the Christian Discipline is to exercise love as God has directed: **John 5:42; Galatians 5:14**

If you are saved God is in you and you are in God. The first exercise of the Christian Discipline is to exercise love as God has directed. We love because God, Who is Love, directs us to do so. We do not take vengeance for hurts, nor do we follow a pathway of action that our Savior would not follow. We love, and so satisfy God our Savior.

(Galatians 5:14 KJV) "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

The *second* exercise of the Christian Discipline is to *surrender the will to God*. Since God is love, when we surrender to Him, to His precious Spirit, then we walk in love.

i The *second* exercise of the Christian Discipline is to *surrender the will to God*: **Galatians 5:18-23; John 10:14, 25-28**

(Galatians 5:18-23 KJV) "But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. {19} Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, {20} Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, {21} Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. {22} But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, {23} Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

When a believer is *led of the Spirit* then he *walks with God apart from the Law*. God's love manifests itself through the surrendered life. The Christian, motivated by the Love of God, has no need of a Law that says "Thou shalt not kill". While motivated by God the believer would not even consider murder, for love avoids murder and the baser emotions of man. It is important for the

believer to understand that the FRUIT (singular, one fruit) of the Spirit has many flavors (**love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance**), but none of these flavors have the bitterness of this world's lusts. George Fox said:

"I knew Jesus, and He was very precious to my soul; but I found something in me that would not keep sweet and patient and kind. I did what I could to keep it down, but it was there. I besought Jesus to do something for me, and, when I gave Him my will, He came to my heart, and took out all that would not be sweet, all that would not be kind, all that would not be patient, then He shut the door."

Another author, Lady Huntington said:

"My whole heart has not one single grain, this moment, of thirst after approbation. I feel alone with God; He fills the void; I have not one wish, one will, one desire but in Him; He hath set my feet in a large room. I have wondered and stood amazed that God should make a conquest of all within me by Love."

Love and obedience to the indwelling Spirit leads the believer to *study the Word of God* and to *pray to Him Who loves us*. We need no Law to mandate a certain number of hours per day for study, fasting, or prayer. Those who are born again, not of the power of man but of the power of God, want to

know their Savior more. A Christian who will not pray, will not give, will not fast, and will not study the Beloved's Word, is either in basest carnality or else is not what he professes to be. Salvation is indeed a free gift, freely given, unearned, but precious. But we must remind ourselves that the Christian way of life is a *God Created* way of life. We must remind ourselves that Jesus clearly stated:

(John 10:14, 25-28 KJV) **"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine ... {25} Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. {26} But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. {27} My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: {28} And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."**

The Christian *is in Christ's hand*, and his life is *in Christ's hand*. We do not need to study the Word, to fast, to pray, to attend the services of the Church to *remain in* His hand, for He has promised to keep us. But we do need to follow the Way of Christ faithfully *for our own sakes*. Imagine every one of Christ's sheep being on a mountain, and that mountain is Jesus. Those who abide at the base of the mountain are as much His as are those on the top of the mountain. But those who are on the base of the mountain, who remain closest to the rich grass of the valley, remain in this low estate because they are comfortable. They enjoy the rich grasses of the valley, and refuse the harsher climb up the mountain. Those who follow Christ's leading climb the mountain,

even to the place where life is bleakest. Yet those whose eyes remain on Christ, who do as the Savior said and:

I The surrendered life follows Christ no matter where He leads: **Matthew 16:24-25**

Matthew 16:24-25 (KJV) "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. {25} For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

follow His leading into the heights of Christ, these are the sheep who grow strongest. They can stand the winds and colder climate of life. But oh, what a view they have! Let us climb together, Beloved, denying ourselves and following our Savior.

