Our Perfect Priest & King
Hebrews 10:18–25

•Melchizedek is seen in history of Genesis (Gen. 14:18–20), the prophecy of Psalms and in the doctrine of Hebrews (Heb. 5–7)

--Hebrews 7:1–3
1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. 3 He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

•King of Salem: "peace," the city of peace (modern-day Jerusalem)

Psalm 76:2
2 His abode has been established in Salem, his dwelling place in (Mt.) Zion.
Psalm 110:4
4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You (the Son, Jesus) are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

The World had Need for a Better Priest
•Not from tribe of Levi (the priestly line – who did not make oaths) but from Judah (the kingly line)
•Jesus was made priest by the oath of God the Father, not by bodily descent from Levi

Hebrews 7:11, 15–16, 20–22
11 Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? … 15 This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, 16 who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. … 20 And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, 21 but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever.'" 22 This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

•Both roles are perfectly fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the better Priest and King, who lives forever to intercede for us (Rom. 8:34)

Setting the Context for our passage today: Hebrews 10:12-14 & 17

12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. … 17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."
Now for our text Hebrews 10:18–25
Hebrews 10:18–25

18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. 19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

I. <u>His Sacrifice Satisfied the Debt (v. 18)</u>

Hebrews 10:18
18 Where there is forgiveness (gr aphesis) of these (sins), there is no longer any offering for sin.
Forgiveness — literally means - a pardon - as if the offense never happened

•Jesus is both the Priest and the Lamb

•One sacrifice, once for all (Heb. 7:26–27)
–Not daily… temporary or ceremonial offerings
–The animal sacrifices were only a shadow and act of obedience but there was always the need for a true sacrifice of Jesus Christ

Hebrews 7:26–27
26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 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.

• In John 19:30 – When ON the cross, Jesus uttered "It is finished"before giving up his spirit:
The word tetelestai – Means “PAID IN FULL”, COMPLETE OR FINAL

John 19:30
30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

It says in Hebrews 7:25a
25 … he is able to save to the uttermost …. – Through life-transforming Faith in Jesus

II. <u>We Have Definite Confidence (vv. 19–21)</u>

Hebrews 10:19–21
19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

• By His blood
• It is a new and living way (Matt. 27:50–51)
–The barrier is torn through the very death of Christ – So we can enter the very presence of God because of Jesus

Matthew 27:50–51
50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. 51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

•Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6; Eph. 2:18)

John 14:6
6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
Ephesians 2:18
18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Romans 8:34
34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding (coming between) for us.

III. <u>Draw Near to God (v. 22)</u>

Hebrews 10:22
22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith(gr pistis), with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
Faith — pistis: trust placed in One who is reliable
• Draw near to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:14–16; James 4:8)
Hebrews 4:14–16
14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

James 4:8
8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

- With a true heart: sincere, genuine
- With full assurance of faith: complete confidence and trust
- We are cleansed and made new (Titus 3:5; Eph. 5:26; Ezek. 36:25–26)

Titus 3:5
5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

Ezekiel 36:25–26
25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

IV. Hold Fast to Our One Hope (v. 23)

Hebrews 10:23
23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Confession — literally - our open declaration
Hope — literally - a firm expectation, looking ahead to what is coming

- A true believer will hold fast
- Hopeful in the promises fulfilled, and those yet to be fulfilled
- The object of our hope is worthy of our faith. He is faithful.

2 Timothy 2:13
13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NASB)
24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
Lamentations 3:22–23

22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

"A true believer will be around in the end. He may become discouraged or frustrated, and occasionally fall into a sinful habit. But he will 'hold fast to the confession'… A true believer's faith and hope are never in vain, because they are in God who is faithful to His promises. God will do His part and the true believer will also do his."
— John MacArthur

V. Stir Up and Gather Together (vv. 24–25)

Hebrews 10:24–25
24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love (gr agape) and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Neglecting — literally means - abandoning, deserting – Keep meeting together often, as the early church did (Acts 2:42–47) – A needed command – WE need each other

- Consider: think of all the ways to stir one another up (Gal. 6:2)
- Seeking each other's ultimate good, with all truth
- **Love gives, even at great personal cost** – Agape (Like Christ's Self-giving to us)

Galatians 6:2
2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Acts 2:42–47
42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- Encourage one another as the Day approaches (1 Thess. 5:11)
- **Christ's return is closer by the minute**

1 Thessalonians 5:11
11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

In Closing: Jesus is Our Priest and King for all Eternity

- He is our High Priest who paid it all – **Tetelestai** (Zech. 6:13)

- He is our King and will come back to rule on His rightful throne of his father David and HIS Kingdom has never and will never end (Luke 1:32–33; Rev. 11:15)

Zechariah 6:13
13 It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

Luke 1:32–33
32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Revelation 11:15
15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

"The Work of Redemption is a work that God carries on from the fall of man to the end of the world."
— Jonathan Edwards

APPLICATION QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

1. What does the passage teach about the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice for you?

2. How does knowing that Jesus is our High Priest change the way you approach God?

3. What helps you hold firmly to the hope in Jesus when circumstances are difficult?

4. What is one specific way you can encourage another believer towards love and good works this week?

5. Why might regular Christian fellowship matter when faith or our hope is tested?