



8: ***Our Source of Eternal Life*** (Hebrews 4:12-5:10)

We've all heard of stories about people searching for "the fountain of youth", and we understand the deep desire to live forever. Today we journey to discover where we can find ***Our Source of Eternal Life***.

teachingnotes

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* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible)

CATCH THE CONTEXT

The author continues to point back to the Scriptures from Psalms to show that a Sabbath rest remains for God's people.

1. ***Our Sabbath Rest is found in following Jesus***. We REST in the good works of Jesus - His perfect life & sacrificial death - and stop relying on our own "good works" (see Eph 2:8-9).
2. ***We must listen to God's voice from the Scriptures to NOT harden our hearts*** (Heb 4:7 & Ps 95:7-8) and to **make every effort to enter God's rest** by obeying Him (Heb 4:11). The power of God's words through the Scriptures both warn and encourage us; offering God's WRATH or God's REST.

Hebrews 4:12-13 For the **word of God** is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is **able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart**. No creature is hidden from Him, but all things are naked and exposed to the Eyes of Him to Whom we must give an account.

The **word of God** is referring to what God spoke to His people in the past and what is recorded for us in the present, spotlighting the good news about Jesus.

🌟 **NT Wright** 'God's word' seems to mean 'the ancient scriptures, and the message about how they all came true in Jesus'.¹

The word of God is...

1. **Living**: God's word exports the ancient & unchanging truths across every culture and every generation. The **word of God** will continue to impact lives forever.
2. **Effective**: God's word is effective at cutting deep inside to the **soul and spirit**, the spiritual tool that God uses to show us the real **thoughts and intentions of the heart**.

We are able to cover our bodies with clothes to hide what is underneath from others, but we can't keep things hidden from Him. When we try to justify our sin, the word of God cuts down deep and exposes our thoughts and intentions.

❓ **Do you really believe you must give an account of your life to God one day?**

The Scripture **warns us**, but it should also **encourage us** because **the word of God** tells us that God also sees when our actions, attitudes, & intentions are pure, honorable, and kind. Jesus mentions a simple act that you and I might not consider very significant. Jesus says:

Matthew 10:42 And whoever **gives even a cup of cold water** to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, truly I tell you, **he will never lose his reward**.

👉 God knows the simple way you serve others (even when no one else is looking).

❓ How might KNOWING THAT change not only WHAT we do, by WHY we do it - this week?

¹ Tom Wright, Hebrews for Everyone (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2004), 40.

Convicted over Sin? Here's the Good News!

Hebrews 4:14 Therefore, since **we have a Great High Priest** who has passed through the heavens—**Jesus the Son of God**—let us hold fast to our confession.

What's THAT mean? Those who confess that **Jesus is the Son of God**, are to **hold fast** - *to hold firmly* (NIV, NLT) to who we say Jesus is. Jesus **passed through the heavens** - the One who was glorified in heaven (Jn 17:5) stepped down onto earth. After completing His work, Jesus ascended to heaven (Lk 24:50-51; Acts 1:9) and sat down at the right hand of the Father (Acts 2:33; Heb 1:3) - the place of honor & authority.

- The human high priest passed through the veiled areas in the temple into the Most Holy Place once a year, standing to complete his task. When finished, he must immediately the room that symbolized the throne room of God in heaven.
- Jesus never entered into this part of the earthly temple. Instead, after He sacrificed Himself to make payment for our sins, and after His resurrection, Jesus **passed through the heavens** and sat down at the right hand of the Father (the throne room of God that the earthly temple symbolized).

The Gracious Benefits of trusting Jesus

Hebrews 4:15-16 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may **receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need**.

Jesus experienced human **weaknesses** - exhaustion, hunger, thirst, disappointment, grief, betrayal, laughter, and tears. He felt what we feel, so He can **sympathize with our weaknesses**.

Jesus experienced real **temptation** as a real human being. After spending 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by the devil (Lk 4:1-13), and after conquering every temptation, Jesus remained **without sin**.

- ✓ When we are experiencing weakness and facing temptation, we know where to turn! Jesus understands, because He's been there!

We are to **approach** God's **throne of grace with boldness**.

- ✗ Ancient rulers couldn't be approached by the common people. Remember when Queen Esther risked her life by approaching her own husband without an invitation (Esther 5:1-2)?²

The Sovereign Creator of all kings, INVITES us to **approach** His **throne**, not to be judged for our GUILT, but to be welcomed into His GRACE.

Hebrews 5:1-3 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed in matters pertaining to God for the people, to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he is also clothed with weakness. Because of this, **he must make an offering for his own sins** as well as for the people.

Making an offering for his own sins is NOT something Jesus had to do, as our sinless Savior. The human high priests were SINFUL, but OUR High Priest is SINLESS.

Called by God

Hebrews 5:4-6 No one takes this honor on himself; instead, a person is called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, Christ did not exalt himself to become a high priest, but God who said to him, *You are my Son; today I have become your Father*, also says in another place, *You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek*.

The author quotes **Ps 2:7** and adds **Ps 110:4** (a passage we will cover in depth in 3 weeks). Other high priests were called to *SERVE*, but they were called God's *SON*.

Hebrews 5:7 During his earthly life, He offered prayers and appeals with loud cries and tears to the One who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence.

This passage reminds the reader of how Jesus prayed fervently **with loud cries and tears** in the Garden of Gethsemane, asking for the Father to **save Him from death**. It was here that our Perfect High Priest wrestled with the reality that He was about to take our sins upon Him.

² John F. MacArthur Jr., Hebrews, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1983), 115.

Hebrews 5:8-10 Although He was the Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered. After He was perfected, **He became the Source of eternal salvation** for all who obey Him, and He was declared by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

This does not imply that Jesus was somehow disobedient and imperfect beforehand, but that He proved to be **obedient & perfect** by completing the task given to Him.

➡ Jesus lived His entire life, without ever being defeated by sin, and **suffered** on OUR behalf. And because of that, **Jesus became the Source of eternal salvation** for all who obey Him.

BIG TRUTH: Jesus is Our source of eternal life

Our Faithful High Priest lived a sinless life and then offered to exchange our sin for His sinlessness.

The Offer of Eternal Life

John 4:13-14 Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, **the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life**.

Jesus IS our Source of Eternal Life, and that doesn't start when we stop breathing, Eternal life begins *when we die to OUR SIN and surrender our lives to Jesus*. That's when we will experience this **well of water springing up in us for eternal life**.

And while we can experience the REST of Jesus living in us, recognizing that eternal life starts NOW, many of us are beginning to realize that the hour-glass of our life has a whole more sand on the bottom than on the top. We better do what we need to do before it's too late.

☀ **Only one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last.**

FEET 2 FAITH

1. *Take time this week to **read what Jesus did for you** (Matthew 26-28, Mark 14-16:8, Luke 22-24, John 18-20). Then **ask the question**, "Jesus gave His life for me; am I giving my life for Him?"*
2. **Watch a MOVIE that shows the significance of what Jesus has done for you** (e.g. *Passion of the Christ* or *Risen*).
3. **Join us for Good Friday Gathering** (5:30-7:30 with dinner - bring a side dish, fellowship, & communion - child care)
4. **Invite Someone Next Sunday** as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and talk about ***the Best Day Ever***. Invite them, pray for them, pick them up, take them out to eat afterwards! AND **take the opportunity to share Jesus with them**.

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Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (973-0011).