

**August 1, 2021**  
**Hebrews 7:1-28 – Only Jesus**  
**JD Farag**

Good morning and welcome to our Second Service. On Sunday mornings we have two services, the first of which is our Bible Prophecy Updates that we do weekly, and now Second Service is our verse-by-verse study through the Word, and we are currently in this amazing book of Hebrews. And Lord willing, today, we will complete the seventh chapter. So I will invite you at this time if you're not already there to turn to Hebrews Chapter 7.

Now we're going to go through the entire Chapter, 28 verses. So if you are unwilling or unable to stand for that length of time, where you're seated is fine. You can follow along as I read. If you do want to stand, that is fine too, so either way.

Verse 1, the writer of Hebrews by the Holy Spirit, "This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and [verse 2] Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means "king of righteousness" then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace."

Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever. Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder!

Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people, that is, from their fellow Israelites, even though they also are descended from Abraham. This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater. In the one case, the tenth is collected by people who die, but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living."

How are you doing so far? Are you good? You getting this, right?

Verse 9, "One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor. If perfection [verse 11] could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood, and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood, why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?

For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. For it is clear [verse 14] that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe, Moses said nothing about priests.

And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to His ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. For it is declared: "You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."

The former regulation [verse 18] is set aside because it was weak and useless, for the law made nothing perfect, and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

And [verse 20] it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever.'"

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Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant. Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office, but because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood.

Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them. [Can I just parent parenthetically say do you realize that Jesus prays for you? Your name is on His prayer list. He is interceding for you and what was your problem again?]

Verse 26, "Such a high priest truly meets our need, one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered himself.

For the law [verse 28] appoints as high priests men in all their weakness, but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever."

All right let's pray. Father, thank you. Okay, this is interesting. There's a lot here obviously, and it requires that You as only You can by the Holy Spirit give us understanding; otherwise, our time together today in Your Word is going to be a waste of time, and I don't think there's anyone here who wants that to happen. That's why we're here.

So Lord, would You open this up to us? Would You by the Holy Spirit bring understanding of this to us? What is it that You want us to see here, Lord? What is it that you want us to hear, here, Lord? Will You speak now? Your servants are listening, we ask You in Jesus' name, amen and amen. You can be seated, thank you.

I want to talk with you today about Jesus. Imagine that? I know, right? I want to talk specifically about how it is that only Jesus, only Jesus is the answer to everything and anything that you and I face in our lives today, especially with everything that is happening in the world today. Only Jesus is the answer.

Now, I realize that this title for this chapter can be seen as an oversimplification of what is arguably a very complex text, but the truth is it's all about Jesus, and that's what the writer of Hebrews is saying in this chapter that we just read.

Actually starting in Chapter 7 and all the way through to Chapter 10:18, the writer of Hebrews is going to connect Old Testament dots to Jesus. See, it's been said, and I really appreciate the way this is said because it is so true that the Old Testament conceals what the New Testament reveals.

And you start with Genesis 1:1 and what it is about is the person of Jesus Christ. And every Chapter, even every verse in every chapter points to the person of Jesus Christ. It's all about Jesus. Now again, understand the context in which this letter was written.

This is prior to 70 A.D. when the temple was destroyed. So these new believers, these Hebrew Christians were under tremendous persecution from their friends, even family members, and they are going to the temple and the priest is there and the high priest is there, and they go into the temple, and they perform the priestly duties. It's all ritual. It's all tradition. Sorry that slipped. You get the point, right?

All of the priestly duties that were performed in the tabernacle and then subsequently in the temple, all pointed to the person of Jesus Christ and the finished work on the cross of Jesus Christ.

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Example; well, we're going to see this in a bit and also Thursday night when we partake together of the Communion table. It all pointed to Christ. The priests in the service there in the temple, they would do the wave offering. Now this is not like what we know - it wasn't that. It wasn't like that.

The wave offering was they would present this offering to the Lord North, South, East, West in the shape of a cross. It pointed to the person of Jesus Christ and the finished work on the cross. Even the tabernacle as we're going to, Lord willing, will see next week in Chapter 8, it all was a picture, a type of the person of Christ.

So the writer of Hebrews is tasked now with this connecting of the Old Testament to the New Covenant and the person of Christ. Because these Hebrew Christians were being pressured, under tremendous pressure to go back to Judaism.

And the writer of Hebrews is writing to them explaining to them that Jesus is superior, better. Jesus is the fulfillment of all of these things. He's our High Priest forever!

And keep in mind just to give you an idea of what their daily life was like, they would get up in the morning and get ready to go to work, and sure enough there is Uncle Bob and Auntie Sue. If your name is Bob or Sue, we love you.

And they're looking at us, probably giving us stink eye like- look at our High Priest, look at his robe. Your High Priest, where is he? Oh, he's in Heaven, huh? Yeah. Hmm.

It wasn't tangible. It wasn't physical. It was by faith. And this was tremendous stress on them and for them. So the writer of Hebrews by the Holy Spirit brings back up this Melchizedek which he first introduced to them earlier in Chapter 2.

Now before we jump into this, I think it is incumbent upon me to explain this connection to Melchizedek who we're actually first introduced to in Genesis Chapter 14. Now, I would encourage you in your own study of God's Word to spend some time in Genesis 14 and also spend some time here in Hebrews 7 and just allow the Holy Spirit to give you eyes of understanding because it is so rich, what is here.

So there is some debate concerning this Melchizedek. Some suggest that he was a Christophany, which is an appearance of Christ in the Old Testament pre-Bethlehem. And others say no, he's not Christ pre-Bethlehem, a Christophany, rather he's a type of Christ. And I have heard and studied both sides of this.

Even when we were going through the Book of Genesis and we got to Chapter 14, we talked about Melchizedek and how he points to the person of Christ. And I've settled in my own heart that Melchizedek is at the very least a profound picture of Christ. If he is a Christophany, an appearance of Christ in the Old Testament, that's even more incredible. But at the very least, he is a type of Christ.

And so I want to go through that real quick to kind of set the stage. Melchizedek was a king. Jesus is the King of Kings. Melchizedek was both king and priest. See, it was one or the other. You were either a king or a priest, but not a king and a priest.

But with Melchizedek, he was both just as Jesus is our King and High Priest.

Melchizedek was the King of Salem. Jesus is the Prince of Salem.

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You know what Salem means, right? It's the same word in Arabic as it is in Hebrew. Well, in Hebrew they don't use the S sound. They use the "ssh" sound. So it's Shalom, peace.

In Arabic, we say Salam. So if I say in Arabic "Salaam-Alaikum" I'm saying peace be upon you. Jer-U-Salem, means possession of peace. Isn't that interesting? The one city in the world throughout human history that has been anything but. That is what Jeru, they don't pronounce the J in Hebrew, but that is what Jer-U-Salem means, possession of peace.

So he's the King of Salem, peace. He's also, his name means King of righteousness. And this is a picture of Jesus who is our righteousness.

Now this is where it gets a little bit - what is the word - I'm going to use the word gnarly. If you have a better word, let me know afterwards, but we will use gnarly for now. That's my story and I'm sticking with it. This is where it gets gnarly because those that believe that Melchizedek was a Christophany, a pre-Bethlehem appearance of Christ they go to because we're told that he was without father or mother.

Now some who suggest that he is a type of Christ say that there's no record of his genealogy, his father or his mother. So again, either way you get there, you're fine. You don't ruin the Christophany if that is your belief, nor do you ruin the type. Well, so too was Jesus without earthly father and mother pre-Bethlehem.

Melchizedek, without beginning or end, like with Jesus, the alpha and the Omega.

Melchizedek was the priest of the Most High God, a picture of Jesus as the Son of the Most High God.

Melchizedek remains a priest forever.

So as we're reading the Chapter, I hope you caught it, but the writer of Hebrews is very careful to point out that the Levites, the priestly tribe from which Melchizedek was not of that order, a new order, in the order of Melchizedek would come from Judah, yet nobody - Moses never said that Judah was going to be the priestly tribe, only the Levites would be the priestly tribe. So what's up with that?

Well, here's the problem. The Levites, those priests - well, how do I say it? They die. So you see why the writer of Hebrews is saying we need a new order, a better hope? And not only that but those priests had to do something about their own sins before they could even get to your sins.

And depending on the priest serving in the priestly duties at that time, it might be a while especially if you're in front of me. He's got to deal with your sins before mine because of course, your sin list is a lot longer than mine. No, I'm just kidding.

Melchizedek remains a priest forever. Jesus is our High Priest for eternity.

Melchizedek, another priest to come in his order and then Jesus is in the order of Melchizedek.

Now this is where again, it gets interesting. Because it's a picture of Communion, the bread and the wine. Melchizedek brings bread, which points to and is a type of the body of Jesus Christ as the bread broken for us. And Melchizedek also brings wine, which is the picture of the blood of Jesus Christ as the wine shed for us. He is a type at the very least of the person of Jesus Christ.

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Now it's for this reason that the writer of Hebrews uses Melchizedek to articulate and communicate that only Jesus is our High Priest forever.

Here's an illustration, and this really has its place in what we know as the feasts. It's the - actually again, the same word in the Arabic language, my native tongue, as it is in Hebrew. It is the word moed. And it's a word that carries with it the idea of a sign pointing to an appointed time, an appointment.

So like again in Arabic if I were to say to you Anna undimaweid maacum, what I'm saying is I have an appointment [moed] with you, moed. And it points to an appointed time until that time is fulfilled.

So here's what this illustration is concerning Melchizedek. He's like a sign that you see in town. You're in Honolulu and you see a sign. In fact, I think there is a sign, and it says Kaneohe, something like 14 miles or whatever it is. That sign is a moed. It points to your final destination.

Now when you reach your destination which is Kaneohe, that sign has fulfilled its purpose. It's still there. It's still there, but it has fulfilled its purpose. And that's what Melchizedek is. He is a sign, moed if you prefer, that points to the final destination of Jesus the Christ who would come in His order and fulfill as our High Priest forever.

Because of the finished work of Christ who died for us and instead of us, it's only Jesus who can give to us that which we need, only Jesus. And the first one is in verses 1-10, and this is for anyone that is here today or even watching online, and everything is in utter turmoil and chaos. We talked about it in the Prophecy Update.

Maybe you're here today and you're just filled with anxiety, even fear with the uncertainty of what lies ahead with everything that's happening, the things you're being faced with, the things that are coming against you. There's a lot at stake, a lot of people are looking at their livelihoods and the real possibility of losing their livelihoods because of this. Well, you need peace, and only Jesus can give you that peace.

Again, here the writer re-introduces Melchizedek. He first mentioned him back in Chapter 2:17, but now, he's going to expound on the importance of Melchizedek and how he relates to Jesus the Christ. And it all starts with the name being the nature.

See, they would wait in the Middle East. They wouldn't give you a name right when you were born. They would wait to give you a name because they wanted to see what your nature was.

So they would watch and see what kind of personality you had and then they would name you accordingly. Now there are exceptions and there are places in Scripture; I think about Isaac which in Arabic; again, the same as the Hebrew Yitschak.

Yitschak; if I say to you in Arabic, ana yitzhak malaikum, I'm laughing with you, that's what his name literally means, Yitschak, laughter. Why? Because the name is the nature. This is laughable that a woman 90 years old, her womb long ago closed and barren has a child. I know, we'll name him Yitschak, we'll name him laughter. The name is the nature.

You can go on down the line, Yacob, Jacob, heel snatcher, con man. Esau, hairy; I mean, if you're named Harry, we love you. I know it's a different play on words, but you get the point, right?

Well, such is the name with the name Melchizedek because the name is the nature and the nature is this: He's a King of righteousness first, then a King of peace. Now stay with me.

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One cannot know this peace absent first righteousness. When we're right with God and it's Christ's imputed righteousness, then we know peace. When we have the righteousness, then we can have the peace; the righteousness comes first. And this is why the writer of Hebrews is very careful to explain this, the name is the nature, righteousness and peace.

Only Jesus - I mean Jesus is our righteousness because our own righteousness as we're going to see in Isaiah on Thursday nights is as filthy rags. And by the way, I would encourage you if you're interested to look at the original meaning of that. I don't want to get into that today. It's pretty graphic. Our own righteousness is as that filthy rag. But this is not our own righteousness. This is Christ's righteousness. And not only is Jesus our righteousness, only Jesus is our peace.

You know that song we sing, 'You Are Our Peace?' He alone gives us peace, and this is not just any peace. Jesus said, John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives [hang on to that]. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

So I do not give to you peace as the world gives? Well, that means that the world has a peace that it can give. Yeah. But I would rather have the peace that Jesus gives. Because that's the true peace. It's supernatural peace.

See, the peace that the world has to offer goes like this: You can have peace when everything is going okay. Well, how's that working out for you? If the only time I had peace is when things in my life are just going smashing well - I'm sorry for that word - I am going to have peace probably - I don't know - a minute and 30 seconds a day, if that, on a good day?

Because see now, my peace is predicated upon my circumstances. That's the peace that the world offers. Hey, peace, everything's good. Okay. Tomorrow, no more peace. Things aren't good right now. Peace goes bye-bye. That's not the peace that Jesus comes to give. The peace that Jesus gives transcends human understanding.

This is what Paul echoed in Philippians Chapter 4:6-7. We talked about this in the update as well because there's so much fear, so much fear, so much anxiety.

And I've shared with you very openly; I know it makes people uncomfortable when I'm this candid, but I still struggle with anxiety and fear and worry. I'm a professional worrier, by the way. I have a PhD; I don't know if you knew that are not, in worry. Don't call me Dr. Farag. You can call me Dr. Worry if you want, but I am really good at it. There was one point I was so good at it, if I ran out of things to worry about, I'd ask you if there was something I could worry about for you. Oh, I was really good at it.

But this is peace that settles you and keeps your heart and mind in Christ no matter what's happening. This peace is not determined by the circumstances in your life. Things in your life can just be upside down and in utter turmoil and chaos, but this peace in that Jesus gives settles you. Everything around you is in turmoil, but you have this peace. That's supernatural peace. That's the peace that Jesus comes to give. I could use me some of that. How about you?

Well, here is the second thing that only Jesus can give and it's hope, true hope. Now again, the writer is very careful to point out the Levitical priesthood's insufficiency and the law's imperfection which necessitates a better hope.

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He draws this point and upon this insufficiency of the Levitical order and how that it's imperfect and the law is imperfect. The law can do nothing for you. The only thing the law can do for you is show you, you.

And when you see yourself in the mirror of God's law, you see yourself as God sees you, as a sinner who has transgressed the law. That's all the law is there for. What if I told you that the Ten Commandments were never given for us to keep?

Are you kidding me right now? Think about that.

Let's just think about that for a moment, talk about that for just a moment. I'm busted on number 1 and number 2 and number 3 and number 4 and number 5 and number 6 and all the way to number 10. I even added a couple if you want to that. I broke every single one of them.

Now what is the point of the law? The point of the law is to show me, me and my need for Jesus. So the law takes me by the hand and says, you're toast. Yes, I'm toast. You need a savior. Yes, I need a savior. Let's go.

Takes me like a schoolmaster by the hand to the Savior who fulfilled the law. He fulfilled the law. I cannot keep the law. The law is imperfect. I need a better hope and that hope is Jesus. See, both the Levitical priesthood and the law made nothing perfect, but rather served its purpose like that moed, that sign pointing us to our final destination which is Jesus the Christ. Were it not for the better hope of Jesus being introduced, we're left with little hope in the old order, and here's why.

It was only kaphar in the Hebrew, cover. See, the sacrifices in the Old Testament were only temporary. They were not sufficient forever. They were only temporary. They temporarily were covered.

You know, I thought about this, and I thought maybe I need ... help me with this Lord because this is kind of intense. I want you to think about what it was like for them in the Old Testament.

Every time they sinned, they had to get an animal and they had to take it to the temple. And they would lay their hands on that animal, and they would confess their sins that they were sort of transferring to that animal that is going to be sacrificed for their sins. And then the priest would take that animal and slay that animal and shed that animal's blood, and now their sins were covered because the sacrifice was made.

I have to share with you - when I came to Christ 39 years ago, I was just a blank slate. I knew nothing. I went out and got a Good News Bible and that was a stretch for me. I killed so many brain cells - not proud of it - with my lifestyle.

So this is a limited vocabulary Bible and many of you might remember. And so I picked up the Bible and I started in the Book of Genesis. I had heard nothing about starting in the Gospel of John. So I started in Genesis and I'm reading this, and I'm going whoa!

And I get to Exodus and then I get to Leviticus, and I am like are you kidding me? You have got to take an animal and kill it and sacrifice it and shed it's blood for your sins? I'm thinking do they do that?

So I am driving around churches looking for livestock in the parking lots. No, I am not kidding. I was a blank slate. I am like no way! Every time? Wait a minute. Every time I sin, I have got to slay an animal and sacrifice that animal and shed its blood for my sin? That's a lot of animals, right? And for

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those of you who faint at the sight of blood, how's that going to work out for you, right? That just brings, I mean, right in your face, the seriousness of sin.

Can we agree that would serve as a deterrent? Every time I sin, blood has to be shed. And it's only temporary because it's only a covering of the sin until the Lamb of God who was slain, until He comes in the order of Melchizedek as our High Priest who has no sin of His own, and He has sacrificed once and for all.

Imagine my relief when I got to the New Testament. I did not step foot in a church until I had read the Bible through all the way for the first time. And I actually thank God for that because like got rooted and I didn't get into all the stuff, the traditions. But imagine my relief when I get to the New Testament. When I tell you I was a blank slate, that is not hyperbole.

When I get to the New Testament it is kind of like oh, thank you, Jesus! That's why there is no livestock in the parking lots of churches! You were sacrificed, You are the Lamb, You are the sacrifice for my sin! And it doesn't just cover my sin! It removes my sin as far as the East is from the West and You remember them no more! Wow!

[ Applause ]

Sorry I am yelling. I mean, I am serious; can you imagine? I was ecstatic. I'm jumping around in my apartment. I'm just like Jesus, You're the... it all made sense now! You're the sacrifice. Oh, thank you, Jesus that I wasn't born in the Old Testament!

[ Laughter ]

Can I get an amen on that? Because that is what they had to do. Now let's fast-forward to when this was written prior to 70 A.D. They're still doing it. And here's these Hebrew Christians going no need. No need! Jesus is our High Priest, sacrificed once and for all. He is the better hope. The writer of Hebrews also quotes a messianic Psalm.

Now for those of you that were with us when we studied through the Book of Psalms, there were many Psalms that were messianic Psalms, speaking of and pointing to Jesus Christ. And Psalm 110 is one of them. And the writer of Hebrews - and they would have known it. They are connecting these dots. Every single one of those Hebrew Christians knew exactly whom Melchizedek was.

And when the writer of Hebrews quotes Psalm 110:4, they knew exactly what he was referring to. It says this, "The Lord has sworn and will not relent, "You are a priest forever [speaking of Jesus] according to the order of Melchizedek." He fulfilled that. Melchizedek pointed to that.

So now only Jesus can give me the peace I so desperately need, especially with what I am up against in my life today. And only Jesus can give me the hope that I so desperately need with everything that I'm faced with in my life today.

Does it get any better than that? Actually, yes, it does. The best is yet to come as they say, eternal life. Only Jesus can give us eternal life.

Now, I am keenly aware that this is a firm grasp of the obvious; however, only Jesus lives forever and remains perfect forever. You know - how do I say this? I'll just say it. The Gospel is that Jesus was crucified, buried, and rose again from the dead.



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Why is it important that He rose again from the dead? Because He defeated death. Why is it important that He defeats death? Because in defeating death, He purchased the price for us for eternal life. Would you agree that the number 1 thing that people fear is death?

And the Apostle Paul - I love it - it is a sanctified taunting of death. Death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? I have Jesus. He defeated death. He paid with His death for my death in my place. And He paid with His death so I could have eternal life.

Let me ask you a question. What is the most valuable thing that you possess? Don't say your car or your stock portfolio or cryptocurrency maybe, I don't know. What is the most valuable thing you possess?

You know what it is, eternal life. That is your most valuable possession and here is thing: You didn't even pay for it. It was given to you as a gift. Well, someone had to pay for it. Yeah, He did. Jesus did. He paid in full the price on that cross. He paid the purchase price. We are not our own. We have been purchased.

It's been said that our greatest need was His greatest deed.

What's our greatest need? Salvation.

What was His greatest deed? Going to His death for our salvation.

One last thing and I will bring it to a close and I hope, and I was reluctant to even mention this. But I have to confess this. I've been very intimidated by particularly Chapter 7-10 of Hebrews. It is a very complex passage of Scripture in God's Word.

I heard a story about a Pastor who got to the end of Chapter 6 and was going verse-by-verse, and you know started taking his time, and then when he got to Chapter 7, he finished the entire book in one day. Just like I am done with this book. It's a really hard book to teach.

So this last week I spent some time with the Lord. The Lord said why are you doing it again? I know what He meant by that. I'm doing it again. I'm complicating it. My wife keeps telling me I have the gift of complication. I keep telling her that is not one of the gifts. She said it doesn't matter. You have it anyway.

So I usually start about Monday, sometime Sunday night just to kind of get a feel for where I'm going. And I read the chapter. And I am like oh, God! What? The Levites, the Levitical priesthood, the law, the imperfection, the insufficiency, the order of Melchizedek, Christophany, type, blah, blah, I mean I was going crazy. And the Lord's like why do you do that to yourself? It is about Me.

Sundays come every week, deeply profound I know, but for me, every Sunday it comes every week without fail, and I always remind the Lord of that. Lord, what am I going to say on Sunday about this?

And He just says well, just tell them about Me because that's what it's about. Only Me.

I want to end with this: When you think about your salvation and many of you I'm sure can remember - I can't remember the actual day - I just know the month and the year. I was a mess, man. I don't remember anything actually.

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But I do remember praying one night and then falling asleep praying and then waking up the next morning a new creation in Christ and old things had passed away and behold all things had become new, and I never looked back.

And maybe you can remember your spiritual birthday, that day when you came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Have you ever thought of it like this? Your eternal life started that day. Now think this through with me. Your eternal life started the day you came to Christ.

Do you realize the implications of that? Wait, let me see if I got this straight. So this is a textbook case of win/win. Yes, it is. And by the way, as one so aptly put it, for the Christian, this is the most hell we will ever know.

Conversely, sadly for the non-Christian, this is the most Heaven they will ever know.

I suppose in some ways you can say it like this because it's true: This is as bad as it gets.

Oh, but Pastor, what if it gets worse between now and the rapture?

Oh, all right, good question, fair question. Here's the answer, and it's the answer that the Lord has settled my heart with. And I mean it has just settled it for me.

Here is the question again. Things are getting really intense, and I face the real possibility of losing my livelihood and my house and it looks like it's getting worse. My world right now, my family right now is in utter turmoil. My son, my daughter, prodigal son, wayward daughter; I mean it really is hell as I am going to understand it. And I don't know how much longer I can hang on.

Okay, here's the answer to that question. So He paid for you, purchased your eternal life, and as we just read in this chapter that He was the guarantor. You understand that in financial terms? He signed; the Holy Spirit is the earnest money down on this purchase, this investment. He has way too much invested in you. The Holy Spirit indwells you.

Do you think He's is going to forsake you or abandon you? He will never leave you or forsake you. You be encouraged. You have eternal life. And until that day when that trumpet sounds, and I believe it's going to sound sooner than any of us can possibly imagine, and the dead in Christ rise first, and we who are alive and remain will be caught up, raptured up to meet the Lord in the air, and all of those loved ones that died that we miss so much, they're going to rise first, bodily resurrection with their new glorified bodies.

I tell you, man; it doesn't take much for me. I just start thinking about that and I'm so encouraged because I know I'm going to see my daughter Noelle again. I'm going to see my mommy again too. I hope I'm going to see my dad; I believe I might. I think he came to Christ before he died. I really believe that. That's my hope.

But all the loved ones, and as I stand behind this pulpit, I look out to you as an amazing church, and I just love you all so much. And a lot of you, we've been through a lot, haven't we? So many have gone home to be with the Lord, and we are going to be reunited with them soon and very soon.

And I tell you; if God's going to do that, and He is, this is not pie-in-the-sky, no pun intended, why wouldn't He do whatever we need until that? Is there anything He wouldn't do? I mean you and I as earthly parents are fallen and sinful. And yet if our children have a need or ask us for a fish, we're not going to give them a snake. I mean in as much as it lies within us, if we see our child in need, oh,

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***Hebrews 7:1-28 – Only Jesus***  
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my goodness we're going to tax the moon and the stars for them. We would move Heaven and earth for them. How much more our Heavenly Father who's purchased us?

We're under new management, under new ownership. We are not our own. He has us. And He will take care of us until He takes us in the air to be with Him. You be encouraged, you be encouraged.

Why don't you stand, and we will have the worship team come up? I am learning to love this Book of Hebrews. Let's just put it like that. You know the first part was great. And by the way, when we get to Chapter 11, I cannot wait for Chapter 11. Read Chapter 11. That will really encourage you.

As it has been affectionately referred to, the Hall of Faith where the writer recalls and recounts all of these men and women who by faith, and then you can fill in the blank. You're like whoa! I can't wait until Chapter 11. But we got Chapter 8, 9, and 10 first, and you have to come back those weeks. Let's pray.

Father, thank You so much for Your word. Oh, Lord, thank you for this Book of Hebrews, this chapter here. What a much-needed reminder for us of just the simplicity. It's just You, Jesus. It's just you. It's all about you. We sing it, we say it, but Lord, we want to live it. We want to live it.

Lord, if there's somebody here maybe watching online and just, I mean, struggling, barely hanging on, would You as only You can give them that peace, that supernatural peace? Fill them with hope as only You can and remind them that they're saved. They're saved. That we're going to spend eternity with You.

That's what we have to look forward to, and that makes whatever we're going through so much easier to get through knowing that we have eternity to look forward to with You. Thank you, Jesus. I cannot thank you enough. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.