

HEBREWS

SHADOWS

An abstract graphic consisting of a series of vertical bars of varying heights, creating a rhythmic, barcode-like pattern. The bars are filled with a gradient of colors, transitioning from dark purple at the bottom to bright yellow at the top. The graphic is positioned directly beneath the word "SHADOWS" and appears to be a visual representation of the word's meaning, possibly alluding to the concept of shadows or light.

Hebrews (Sept. 6 to Nov. 8: One Book. Three Series)

In Hebrews, we see three major — and continual — themes. First, Jesus Christ is greater than any angel, priest, or old covenant practice. Second, Christians must not forsake the great salvation that Jesus has brought about. And third, believers must hold on by faith to the true rest found in Christ, and must encourage others in the church to do the same.

Group Discussion

Main Text:

Hebrews 7:1-28, Hebrews 8:1-6

1. What stood out to you from the sermon this week?
2. Read Hebrews 7:1-2. Melchizedek is the only person in scripture (other than Jesus), who was allowed to be both a king and a priest. Kings are concerned with power and justice. Priests are concerned with mercy and compassion. Why would it be difficult for someone to occupy both of these roles?
3. Throughout Hebrews 7, what connections do you see between Melchizedek and Jesus? How is Melchizedek a shadow of who Jesus would be?
4. Read Hebrews 7:18-19. *Religion is a bad deal for us.* Religion is about what you have to do to get to God — it's performance based. It either results in despair or pride. Have you ever felt this effect from religion? Do you feel despair because of your bad behavior? Do you feel prideful because of your good behavior?
5. *Religion is a bad deal for us.* When salvation is performance based we think that God owes us. Do you ever feel entitled, like God owes you when you behave well? Do you ever feel fearful, like you deserve punishment when you behave badly?

6. Read Hebrews 7:22-27. *Jesus is a better deal for everyone.* The Gospel is about what Jesus did to get to you. How has Jesus removed the pressure on you to perform well? How has Jesus removed the fear of punishment for your sins? How has Jesus made you sure of your salvation?

Next Steps

Like Melchizedek, Jesus is both Priest and King. As Priest he is full of mercy and compassion, and as King he is full of power and justice. So he not only has compassion for our weaknesses, he has the power to do something about them.

What do you need to take to Jesus as your Priest? What do you need to trust with Jesus as your King?

Who in your life needs to hear this truth about Jesus?



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PODCAST EXTRAS, PLUS SERMONS.

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