

**The Weekly Word**  
March 9-15, 2015

Our journey through the very Jewish book of Hebrews continues this week. Happy reading...

Grace and Peace, Bill

To hear the Bible read click this link... <http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/audio/>.

**Monday, March 9: Hebrews 7- Saved completely...**

I found my meditation spot in verses 22, 24-25: *Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant. ... 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.*

What the original covenant couldn't do, Jesus can do. He can save **COMPLETELY** those who come to God through Him. Grammatically the word 'completely' doesn't seem to fit the sentence. You can either save someone or you can't. Right?!

But the word 'completely' does add an important element to the thought. 'Completely' means there are no holes, no problems, and no issues. Those who come to God through Jesus have everything taken care of...

'Completely' is a word of assurance... assurance for those who believe in Him. There will never be a need for another covenant because the covenant of Jesus can and will save perfectly, fully, completely. Believe it because God will never lie.

*Lord, thank You for the assurance that these words bring. Praise to You, Lord Jesus. Bless You for the perfect, complete salvation that You provide. Halleluiab. Amen.*

**Tuesday, March 10: Hebrews 8- Jesus my all in all...**

I guess when I hear "Now the main point is", I listen up. That is precisely how this chapter starts. *Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being (1-2).*

Jesus is our High Priest. He stands before the eternal throne of God in heaven's majesty and He "priests" for us.

A priest represents people to God and God to the people. Priests offer sacrifices for the people to atone for their sins. A priest offers the peoples' thank you and love offerings to God for them, too. So the picture painted for us in this passage is of Jesus standing before God, the Father, as our priest! He is representing us to God, the Father. He is offering a sacrifice for our sins, which is His life offered on the cross. Jesus is doing for us what we could never have done for ourselves, nor could any mere human being.

Jesus, God Himself, is our perfect priest and our atoning sacrifice.

If the writer of Hebrews is striking one chord, it is Jesus is our priest, our answer, our hope, our all-in-all.

Today I sit and ponder Jesus, my Lord!

*Thank You, Jesus, for dying for me... and for serving as my priest before the Father in heaven. I am so blessed that You are my Lord and Savior. And I surrender all to You. Halleluiah. Amen!*

### **Wednesday, March 11: Hebrews 9- Our gift from Jesus...**

*[Christ] did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. ... How much more, then, will the blood of Christ ... cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! (12,14)*

Some phrases from the verses above sparked my meditations this morning.

*Obtaining eternal redemption...* The writer is going to extreme lengths to let us know that Jesus' work is a finished, completed, never-needs-to-be-improved-upon, eternal, forever work. In chapter 7 he used the unnecessary word COMPLETELY to define saved. Now today he underscores the redemption of Jesus with the word 'eternal'. My heart sings, Jesus has done it all. Jesus had provided EVERYTHING I need for salvation. Hooray, Jesus!

*Cleanse our consciences...* What a wonderful gift, cleansed consciences. Paul speaks a similar truth when he writes; *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus* (Rom 8:1). We are free from the guilt that our sins deserve! We are free before God. He will not hold us accountable, because He held Christ accountable. Jesus Christ paid the full righteous penalty for our sins! Sleep well, sisters and brothers, our consciences have been cleansed!

*So that we may serve the living God!* Jesus did all of this, not so we can live on easy street or so we can kick back and relax. No, He did all of this so that we can lean into the work of serving the living God!

We are no longer burdened by wondering about our future... we have obtained our eternal redemption!

We no longer have to worry and be conscience stricken by our past deeds and our sin-failures... our consciences have been cleansed.

Therefore, we have nothing holding us back from serving the living God. Halleluiah! Let us serve then with hearts full of gratitude and backs full of energy. Thanks be to Jesus!!!

*Lord, may my prayer today be my service of You throughout the day. Hallelujah. Amen.*

#### **Thursday, March 12: Hebrews 10- The progression of faith...**

I sat wowed by verse Hebrews 14. It grabbed me and taught me. Speaking of Jesus' 'once for all' sacrifice on the cross the writer pens: *For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

Notice the completed nature of the verb, the sacrifice of Jesus ***has made perfect forever...*** Christ's work completes the salvation of all who believe. What a gift! But the sentence doesn't end there. It goes on to say *has made perfect forever those **who are being made holy.*** We have a role in our ongoing life of faith... who are *being made perfect.* Perfection doesn't come instantly or easily. It is a joint work where we cooperate with God Who is working in us. Working toward our perfection takes a lifetime, and the reality is that we will never fully reach it until we are made completely new in eternity.

I am thankful for what Jesus has done for me. And I show my thankfulness by working on the aspects of life that God reveals to me so that I can follow Jesus more and more closely every day, month and year of my life!

Jesus does the saving... we cooperate in the growing in holiness!

*May Jesus Christ be praised... Amen.*

**Friday, March 13: Hebrews 11- I believe God created the world and everything in it...**

After reading the honor roll I found myself returning to verse 3: *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

I earned a master's degree in engineering from a prestigious engineering college before heading off to seminary. This means I have almost as many college years studying science and engineering as I do divinity. I say this not to toot my own horn, but to say I understand the various arguments for and against the Bible's view that God created the universe out of nothing.

Truthfully one cannot absolutely prove the evolutionist view anymore than one can prove the creationists' view. Both sides can line up PhDs to argue their case. Ultimately, it comes down to faith. Did God create or did our universe and world 'just happen'? Your faith, your beliefs, your presuppositions will determine where you land on the issue.

And this is why I find the writer of Hebrews comment so refreshing. He says, *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command...*

And because of my faith, because I believe the Bible is God's Word written to humanity and is therefore true, I believe God created the world and everything in it.

Do you have the faith to believe?...

*Lord God, it is my joy and honor to put my faith in You... God of the universe, God of creation, God of redemption and salvation. Lord God Almighty, the Most High God.*

*In You I put my trust. Alleluia. Amen.*

### **Saturday, March 14: Hebrews 12- Living a peace-giving life...**

I opted to focus on the practical words of verses 14-16: *Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless...* It is helpful for me to recognize the practical living that our faith should produce.

*Make every effort to live at peace with everyone...* I cannot control other people or their response to me or the world. However, I can control myself and God says I should do everything I can to live peaceably with others. This impacts how I speak to others and how I act toward them.

Live in such a way that the 'wake' of my life is peace-giving rather than turbulent. That's a great image for me. Does my life create problems for others?

Even though there were other practical words in the verses I chose, I find myself sticking with the idea of living a 'peace-giving' life. Too many people leave a wake of destruction in their paths. Chaos and hurt seem to be a by-product of their lives. God is saying to me, 'Don't be like them'. Be the kind of person whom others want to have enter the room or the meeting because calm, control and peace enter with them. This is the goal. Easier to put on paper than to do...

As I ponder this... it starts with me being a person filled with peace, being a person who is calm in all manner of situations, and being a person who by the presence of the HS is attune with the movement of the HS in all situations. Well, there are 3 things I can be working on today.

*Lord, help me to be a man of peace who brings peace wherever I go. I can only do this by Your grace. And believe me, Lord, I need a LOT of help in this matter. To Your glory, I live and pray. Amen.*

### **Sunday, March 15, 2015, Sunday Worship**

*If any of my thoughts or the Bible readings spark questions send an email reply and I will do my best to answer all questions from people on the list... I will answer personal questions privately; general questions will be answered in a subsequent email installment.*

*If you are reading along with me from the PCOG website you can send questions or request being placed on the weekly email list by emailing Lisa at [office@pcogonline.org](mailto:office@pcogonline.org).*

Click here for a link to my sermons on the web. Sermons are generally posted within 2 days.