

Hebrews 7:22-28

I looked up the current Roman Catholic “Liturgy of the Eucharist.” Here is what is given from catholic-resources.org:

Priest: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

It is this practice that section 2 so clearly opposes. Tonight, I hope to give you some of the Scriptural background for why we need to uphold that the Lord’s Supper is “only a commemoration” of Christ’s one, ultimate sacrifice on the cross.

Sec 2. “In this sacrament, Christ is not offered up to His Father; nor any real sacrifice made at all, for remission of sins of the quick or dead; but only a commemoration of that one offering up of Himself, by Himself, upon the cross, once for all...”

A. → Look at **Heb 7:22-28** as we explore the theme that Jesus is better in every way.

1. **v22** say “**Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.**”

a. The words & promises or guarantees of men will fail you, but Jesus will never fail you.

b. **2 Cor 1:20** says “**the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.**”

2. **vv23-25** tells us that the priesthood of Jesus is better because He is eternal & permanent unlike earthly priests who suffer death. → **vv23-24**

3. The author of Hebrews next argued that Jesus is a better high priest because He is sinless & undefiled.

a. According to **v27** an earthly priest had to “**offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins & then for the sins of the people.**”

b. Because Jesus is “**holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners & exalted above the heavens,**” (**v26**) His perfect sacrifice was “**once for all when He offered up Himself**” (**v27**).

B. I read a Roman Catholic apologist who sought to deal with Hebrews 7 & said our interpretation was myopic or nearsighted; however, he didn’t deal with the other 2 passages in Hebrews that repeats how Christ offered Himself once for sinners:

1. **Heb 9:28**: “**Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.**”

2. → Turn to **Heb 10:7-14**.

C. **1 Peter 3:18** “**Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.**”

Sec 2 goes on to say that Christ offered Himself “once for all and a spiritual oblation [offering] of all possible praise unto God, for the same: so that the popish sacrifice of the mass (as they call it) is most abominably injurious to Christ's one, only sacrifice, the alone propitiation for all the sins of his elect.”

A. G.I. Williamson wrote about this in his commentary on the WCF (p. 285-286)

B. The Holy Spirit given to Paul directed him to write: **“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching [doctrine], for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16).**

1. Can we find even one passage of Scripture that gives any biblical warrant to the celebration of the mass as being in any way a sacrifice to God the Father?

2. Is there even one NT passage that gives warrant for the continuation of the office of priest?

a. The offices given are elders (at other times called Bishop or overseer). Of elders, there are both ruling elders and those who have an added function of laboring in preaching and teaching (**1 Tim 5:17**). There is the office of deacon instituted in **Acts 6**.

b. The office of priest as one whose key role is to offer sacrifices to God has been fulfilled in Christ who is our ultimate & final great High Priest who offered himself as the final sacrifice for sin for all who put their faith in Him. Is it possible that the RCC's doctrine of priests offering Jesus over & over again as a sacrifice to the Father was motivated by a desire not to let go of this office of the priesthood?