

“The Way of Salvation”
Hebrews 5:7-9
(Preached at Trinity, February 11, 2024)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. The Book of Hebrews has maintained one central subject – the glory and superiority of Christ.
Hebrews 1:3 NAU - "He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,"
 2. Chapters 4-5 emphasize the priesthood of Christ.
Hebrews 4:14-15 NAU - "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin."
 3. **Verses 10-11** tell us that Jesus is superior to the priesthood of Melchizedek, the mysterious priest of the Old Testament. The author tells us there is much to say about him but then postpones it until **Chapter 7**. We'll look more into Melchizedek then. All focus here is upon Jesus Christ.
 4. **Verse 9** addresses one of the most important topics in the Bible. In fact, it addresses the most important topic of life. It addresses the way of eternal salvation. What is the basis for being brought to a right standing before God? How can a sinner be forgiven and reconciled? **Verse 9** tells us that Jesus Christ is the source of our salvation.
Hebrews 5:9 NAU - "And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation"
 5. **Verse 9** addresses the two key elements of eternal life.
 - The source of salvation
 - The way of salvation
- I. The source of salvation – Jesus Christ is the focus
- A. We read of His incarnation in **V. 7** - "In the days of His flesh"
Hebrews 5:7 NAU - "In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety."
1. He took upon Himself the flesh of humanity. He was ordained as God's High Priest.
Hebrews 2:17 NAU - "Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people."

2. “He offered up prayers.”
 - a. This stresses His priesthood and His mediatorial office – John 17. As High Priest and Mediator He prayed for God’s elect. But Jesus also prayed for Himself, stressing His humanity. He had need to pray unto His Father. He prayed with passion and tears.
 - b. "He was heard because of His piety."

The word translated “piety” in the NASB has various meanings and has been translated in different ways.
ESV: “reverence” KJV: “He feared” NIV: “reverent submission”
The point is He was heard because there was nothing to hinder His prayers. He was holy and perfect in every way.
 - c. He was heard but not delivered from death.
Matthew 26:39 NAU - "And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."
Had He been delivered from the cross He would have failed as our Redeemer.
3. **Verse 8** - He was the eternal Son – the only begotten of the Father. Although He was God’s Son He was not exempt from suffering. Suffering was His purpose. He was the suffering servant.
Isaiah 53:3-5 KJV - "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."
4. In His humanity Jesus learned obedience – The obedience of Christ is described in two dimensions: His active obedience and His passive obedience.
 - a. His active obedience refers to His absolute submission to God’s Law. He obeyed in every way. He was perfect and righteous in every way.
Romans 5:19 NAU - "For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous."
 - b. His passive obedience refers to His willful submission to the cross.
Philippians 2:8 NAU - "Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."
 - c. By His passive obedience He learned active obedience.
Luke 22:42 NAU - "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."

5. **Verse 9 - "And having been made perfect"**

He was perfect and was made perfect.

This is our problem. You must have perfect righteousness to have eternal life. But we are not perfect. We are wicked. We need perfect righteousness. But where does this righteousness come from? It is righteousness that only Jesus has. His righteousness is imputed to us by faith. He is the source. The only source of eternal life.

B. Jesus is our great High Priest. The author has been stressing the infinite superiority of Christ over the earthly priesthood.

1. Jesus was appointed from eternity.

Hebrews 5:10 NAU - "being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek."

2. Jesus accomplished our salvation through His atoning sacrifice.

Israel's priests offered up the blood of bulls and goats. Jesus offered up His own blood. He saved His people from their sins.

His atoning sacrifice is God's only way of salvation. Jesus became our substitute. He took our sin upon Himself and shed His own blood on our behalf, satisfying God's justice. God's wrath has been appeased.

3. This atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ must be received by faith.

C. Jesus is also the perfect Lamb of God.

1. Jesus was perfect in righteousness.

He kept the Law perfectly.

2. The perfect righteousness has become our righteousness. He has fulfilled the righteous demands of the Law. We receive His righteousness by faith. His righteousness is imputed to us.

II. The way of salvation – "to those who obey Him"

A. On one hand this refers to the charge of the Gospel.

1. The Gospel is always presented in command mode.

The Gospel is not an offer, it is a command.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved"

2. Salvation is by grace. It cannot be earned. It is bought for us by Christ.

Yet salvation demands a response of obedience and submission.

3. God commands men to turn from their sinful disobedience and trust in Christ.

a. Faith and repentance are presented in Scripture as commands. The Gospel is not optional.

b. The Gospel commands men to believe and turn from their sins.

Acts 17:30 NAU – "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent,"

The NASB here is not as powerful as many of the other translations:

Acts 17:30 ESV - "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,"

- 1 John 3:23 NAU** - "And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us."
- c. Paul always presented the Gospel as that which must be obeyed.
Romans 6:17 NAU - " But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,"
4. Salvation is given to those who receive the Gospel of Christ.
 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved"
Hebrews 5:9 NAU - "He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,"
- B. On the other hand, it refers to the only proper response to Christ in the Gospel. Those who come to Christ follow Him in obedience. Faith is an act of obedience that results in a life of obedience.
1. True faith is never barren but always produces obedience to the commands of God.
2. Obedience is at the very heart of faith.
Hebrews 11:8 NAU - "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going."
3. We are justified by faith alone but saving faith is never alone. It is never barren. Genuine faith is always an active faith. It has life, vitality. It is observable, objective.
4. Obedience is the result of hearing and then placing significance upon what you have heard.
- a. People sin against God because they place little significance upon Him and His Law.
- b. When God saves us He enables us to hear and He gives us a heart to obey – we see the significance of God. We see Him as having the right to rule us and that He is worthy of our obedience.
- C. Those who trust Jesus Christ as Savior also trust Him as Lord.
1. Matthew Henry – "It is not sufficient that we have some doctrinal knowledge of Christ, or that we make a profession of faith in him, but we must hearken to his word, and obey him. He is exalted to be a prince to rule us, as well as a Saviour to deliver us; and he will be a Saviour to none but to those whom he is a prince, and who are willing that he should reign over them; the rest he will account his enemies, and treat them accordingly."¹
2. Jesus is not only our Prophet and our Great High Priest. He is also our King. He rules over us. We submit to His gracious reign.
3. "Jesus is Lord" is regarded as one of the oldest and most basic statements of Christian faith. It's one of the earliest Christian creeds.

¹ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 2388.

4. Many people want to cling to the hope of salvation without Lordship. Parents hold to this hope for their children, spouses for their mates, and on and on – even when there is no submission to Christ. It is a vain hope. Where there is no Lordship there is no salvation.
- D. The truth is every human being will eventually call Jesus Lord.
1. Either you will embrace Him now joyfully calling Him your Lord, your King, your Master, joyfully submitting to His reign in your life, or you will call Him Lord in judgment just before He casts you into hell.
 2. You cannot make Him Lord, He IS Lord. If you haven't submitted every aspect of your life to Christ pray that God might help you to repent of your rebellion against His Lordship.
 3. God calls upon all men to repent and believe. That must be your chief interest.

Conclusion:

1. Jesus commanded each of His disciples, "Follow Me," each time in the imperative—in command mode. And they followed Him.
He used the same word to the rich young ruler. This is the Gospel message.
Jesus gave the condition for discipleship:
Mark 8:34 NAU - "And He summoned the multitude with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."
2. This is the way of salvation. Jesus alone is the source. He is the only way,
We must trust Him alone.
Obedience is at the very heart of faith. We trust Christ through the obedience of faith.
And this faith always leads to obedience.
3. Look unto Christ. Look at His beauty and perfection. And may the sight cause everything else upon the earth to fade into insignificance in the light of His glory. May this lead you to obey, to obey without reservation, without ceasing; to obey until your dying breath.
May you claim the words of Joshua as your own,
Joshua 24:15 KJV - "as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."