

1. Beginning in verse 7 the writer now speaks about the things Jesus would experience during His time on earth.
2. He also speaks of a prayer that Jesus offered during His earthly life to the One who was able to save Him from death.
3. The writer does not make clear what Jesus prayed for. We are only told He prayed “to the One who could save Him from death” with the outcome that “he was heard.”
4. The last phrase is regularly found in Scripture with the implication that the prayer is granted. This would seem to rule out the view that Jesus’ prayer was to avoid or be protected from physical death on the cross. (John 12:27)
5. This prayer was accompanied with strong crying and tears. The combination of “prayers and supplications” adds urgency to the pleading. The two nouns translated “crying” and “tears” indicate an anguished pleading with a loud noise.
6. What Jesus feared, or more accurately, dreaded, was not the torturous death on the cross, but that He would have laid upon Him the sins of the whole world. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
7. Jesus would face the judgment of God on our behalf; this knowledge, more than anything else, brought the anguished cry that dark Gethsemane night.
8. To say that Jesus “learned obedience” in v. 8 means that Jesus learned by experience in that he practiced obedience. This statement is an important confirmation of Hebrews’ conception of Jesus’ full humanity,” He learned as He grew. (Luke 2:52 and Philippians 2:8)
9. And - it was not that He had to learn to obey - He said in John 8:29, “I do always those things that please Him.”
10. Jesus Christ offered a superior sacrifice. This topic has already been touched on, and the writer of Hebrews discusses it in detail in Hebrews 9–10. Two important points are involved.
11. The first is that Jesus Christ did not need to offer any sacrifices for Himself. Since Jesus is the sinless Son of God, there was no need for Him to sacrifice for Himself. He was in perfect fellowship with the Father and needed no cleansing.
12. The second point is that our Lord’s sacrifice was once and for all, whereas the Old Testament sacrifices had to be repeated. Those sacrifices could only cover sins; they could never cleanse sins.
13. It required the sacrifice of the spotless Lamb of God for sin to be cleansed and removed.
14. Because He is the sinless, eternal Son of God, and because He offered a perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ is the “Author of eternal salvation” (verse 9-10).
15. No Old Testament priest could offer “eternal salvation” to anyone, but that is exactly what we have in Jesus Christ.

16. The next section of the letter runs from 5:11 through 6:20. Chapter 6 verse 12 gives us a summary of this portion.
17. This verse summarizes the main message of this difficult (and often misunderstood) section of the epistle.
18. If you keep in mind that the emphasis in this section is on growing and maturing spiritually - you will steer safely through misinterpretations that could create problems. (verse 11-14)
19. The writer had barely begun his consideration of the topic of the Melchizedek priesthood of Christ - but - he paused for another warning section before proceeding further.
20. The discussion is lengthy (7:1–10:18) as well as deep. He anticipated that it would be hard to explain because his readers were slow to learn.
21. The phrase “you are dull of hearing/slow to understand” does not mean that the readers are in a permanent state of low intelligence. They have had time to understand, but they still do not.
22. The real danger here is that they will fall back into a state worse than the one they were in before they became Christians.
23. They had been Christians a long time, he reminded them, so that by this time they ought to be teaching.
24. Others who had been in the faith less time than they should be profiting from their instruction. Instead they needed someone to instruct them again in the basics.
25. What he apparently had in view was their wavering state of mind in regard to the error that sought to lure them away from the faith. The result was you need milk, not solid food.
26. The instruction they need is said to be the “first principles of the oracles of God” or “the elementary truths of God’s word.” This “basic or fundamental principle,” can be used of the letters of the alphabet.
27. These Hebrew believers - by their neglect of New Testament truth - and their gradual turning away from it because of the pressure of persecution which they were undergoing - had come to the place where they could only handle milk.
28. The word “strong” is literally “solid.” Thus, only a liquid diet, milk, the very beginning of the rudimentary teachings of the New Testament could be administered, not solid food, the deeper teachings of the Word.
29. As we feed on the Word of God and apply it in daily life, our inner “spiritual senses” get their exercise and become strong and keen. Paul called this process exercising ourselves unto godliness. (1 Timothy 4:7–8)
30. This issue in these verses is spiritual maturity/sanctification - not salvation.