11th July, 2021 **Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre**

Theme: The Christian Priesthood in Hebrews 10:19-25

**I. The Character of the Christian Priesthood. Heb. 10:18-20**

II. The **C**haracter of our High Priest. Heb. 10:21

III. The **C**onditions of the Christian Priesthood. Heb. 10:22

IV. The **C**ommitment of Priests. Heb. 10:23-25

**Study 1b** - **The Character of the Christian Priesthood I Cor. 10:19b**

Recap. - **The Character of the Christian Priesthood**

**Part 1a** - Intro. ***Having therefore brethren*… Heb. 10:19a**

**A. The Classes of Priesthood.**

1. The **O**riginal **P**urpose of God. Exo. 19:5-8 cf. I Pet. 2:9

The National Priesthood Put **A**way because of disobedience.

2. The **O**ther **P**riesthoods Set up by God.

a. The Levitical Priesthood Set **A**side.

b. The Melchizedek Priesthood Set **A**bove **A**ll others

3. The **O**bedience of the High **P**riest.

**B. The Constitution of the Christian Priesthood. I Pet. 2:5, 9**

1. The **Silence** regarding a Special Priesthood (**C**lergy)

2. The **Absence** of a **S**pecial Priesthood in the **C**hurch (cf. Eph. 4:11, 12).

3. The **Presence** of the **S**piritual (Christian) Priesthood in Scripture (I Pet. 2:5, 9)

or Who are Constituted Priests?

a. All who are **B**elievers in Christ – all **B**orn again (I Pet. 1:23) even **B**abes (2:2)

b. All who are **B**rethren of Christ (Heb. 10:19; 2:11, 12)

**Pt. 1b**

**C. The Confidence in the Christian Priesthood. Heb. 10:19**

*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest …*

Intro. Boldness (Gk. *parrhesia*, fro. *pas* = all; *rhesis* = speech) lit. = all speech; i.e. the absence of fear in speaking boldly; hence, **C**onfidence, **C**heerful **C**ourage.

**1. This Boldness is Objective.** **Heb. 9:14** – *Having therefore*

i.e. **B**ased on the arguments **B**efore, viz. the obedience of Christ.

It is **B**ased on … the **B**lood of **C**hrist. Heb. 9:14

a **B**etter **C**ovenant. Heb. 8:6

a **B**etter Priesthood. Heb. 7:24, 25

**B**etter **P**romises. Heb. 6:9, 18

a **B**etter **P**erson. Heb. ch. 1-4

Christ is Better than Aaron (ch. 5); Joshua (ch. 4); Moses (ch. 3); the Angels (chs. 1, 2)

Thus, Christ is the One Perfect Sacrifice. Heb. 10:12-18

**2. The Boldness is Positive. Heb. 9:14** – *purge* (lit. = scrub) *your conscience;*

a. It is not based on **F**eelings.

[It purges the conscience. The Role of Conscience: it speaks to us of what is right and tells us where we have done wrong, and sin is always a legacy of guilt upon it. Long after sin has ceased to occupy the thoughts, and long after it has ceased to grip the heart, and even when it has faded almost from the memory, the stain upon it still remains upon the conscience. Hence, it needs to be purged, to be cleansed. But beware of a seared conscience.]

b. It is not based on **F**ailures. – *from dead works*

Three sorts of *works* in the New Testament –

i. Wicked works. Col. 1:21

ii. Good works. Eph. 2:10

iii. Dead works, i.e. the things we feel we ought to do, but which we have never quite succeeded in doing.

[Many Christians are going round with conscience condemned by the prayers they have not prayed; the time they have not spent with their Bibles; the promises they have not kept; the souls they have not witnessed to, etc. Thus, they are prevented from entering…]

c. But it is based **on Faith**.

i. Faith in the **E**ntrance of the Lord into the Holy Places.

* He is our **F**orerunner Heb. 6:19, 20
* He is there **F**or us. 9:23, 24.
* He is our **F**ulfilment. 9:25, 26 cp. 22

ii. In the **E**fficacy of the Blood.

* Which is the **P**ropitiation for Sin. 9:12
* Which is the **P**rovision for Service. 9:14
* Which is the **P**romise of Salvation and Sanctification. 9:15

[Question: What are the possible reasons for a **C**hristian not exercising his **C**onstitutional right as a priest in the **C**hurch?]

**D. The Consecration of the Christian Priesthood. Heb. 10:19**

**1. The Structure of the Tabernacle. Heb. 9:1-5**

a. The Three **C**ompartments in their typical teaching. Cp. Heb. 8:5; 9:11, 23

i. The Outer Court: Calvary, where Christ died.

ii. The Holy Place: the Heavens through which Christ passes. 9:24

iii. The Holiest: the Presence of God. 9:24

[Note: The Holiest and Holy Places, i.e. both the Holiest and the Outer Sanctuary.)

b. The Three **C**urtains (Veils) 9:6-9

i. The Gate of the Outer Court (20 x 5 cubits): **S**alvation.

ii. The Door of the Tent (Tabernacle, 10 x 10 cubits): **S**ervice.

iii. The Veil (10 x 10 cubits): **S**piritual Worship.

**2. The Standing of the Veil.**

a. It kept God’s **P**resence In.

God’s Glory would only be revealed in all its Glory through the Rent Veil, hence, the Body of Christ, bruised and broken for us.

b. It kept God’s **P**eople Out.

They could only enter through Christ, the new and living way which He had consecrated.

i. “*new*” as of a newly-slain lamb – old yet ever new;

ct. the old slain goat of the earthly tabernacle. Lev. 16:14

ii. “*living*” – in contrast to the dead sacrifices, and the dead road, and the dead results.

iii. “*way*” – i.e. *through the Veil…His flesh*

**3. The Significance** of the Rent Veil. An uncrucified Saviour is no Saviour.

a. The Removal of **D**istance.

i. The Jews worshipped *afar off.* Exo. 24:1, 2

ii. The Gentiles were *afar off*. Eph. 2:13

iii. But, the Church is made *near* Eph. 2:13

And Christians are to *draw near*  Heb. 10:22

Under the Law for one to draw near to the Presence of God was death;

Under Christ, it is death to stay away, cp. “dead” Christians with “dead” works.

* Distance between Man and God is **R**emoved – a New Way. Jn. 4:23, 24

*In Spirit* – An **E**xperienced **R**elationship

*In Truth* – An **E**stablished **R**elation

* Beware of **F**alse Worship – *ye worship ye know not what* 4:22a
* Beware of **F**igurative Worship – *we know what we worship*; 4:22b

*for worship is of the Jews.*

* What we need is **F**aithful Worship – in Spirit and in truth
* Distance between Jew and Gentile is **R**emoved – a New Body. Eph. 3:16-18 cp. I Cor. 12:13

Hence, no **C**lerisy or **C**lergy

b. The Removal of **D**emarcation – *the new and living way* Heb. 10:20, 19

i. Where **A**pproach can be made at all times. 4:16

ii. Where **A**ccess is granted to all Priests. Eph. 2:18

* Made such by the **B**lood of Christ. Heb. 10:19
* Made such by the New **B**irth. I Pet. 2:5, 9

iii. Where **A**cceptance is because of the Once-for-All Sacrifice. Heb. 10:14, 15

Conclusion: Let us therefore not raise any middle wall of partition, it having been broken down.

**B**eware of the **B**arrier of …

(1) **R**itualism in the hierarchy. Eph. 2:15

(2) **R**iches in society – *by the cross* 2:16

(3) **R**eligiousness in piety – *circumcision*. 2:11

(4) **R**acism in the community – *Gentiles* 2:11 by the Cross all are equal.

(5) **R**ites **R**aised in priestly ministry – *the holiest* Heb. 10:19 (lit. = the holy places).

When Christ’s work was completed, the Veil was rent, the Holy Pace and the Holiest were united and made one sanctuary. Thus, Service and Worship go together. Rom. 12:1, 2;

Heb. 12:28

***What God has pulled down, Let no Man put up.***