24th November, 2019 **Burmah Road Gospel Hall**

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

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

**Recapitulation of Pt. 1a: - The Character of the Christian Priesthood** Heb. 10:19-20

1. **The Classes Of Priesthood**

Intro. *Having therefore…* Before the “*therefore*”

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

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

a. The National Priesthood Put **A**way because of disobedience. Exo. 32:8; cf. Isa.61:6

b. The Levitical Priesthood Set **A**side, it was to be a Shadow Priesthood. Exo. 28:1, 2

c. The Melchizedek Priesthood Set **A**bove All others.

3. The **O**bedience of the High Priest. Heb. 10:5-10

a. The **O**rgans of Obedience – the ear, the body! 10:6, 7

b. The **O**utcome of Obedience.

 i. The **E**stablishment of the Christian Priesthood. Heb. 10:9

 ii. The **E**ndowment of Christians as Priests. Heb. 10:10

**B. The Constitution of the Christian Priesthood.** *Brethren* or Who are Priests? Heb. 10:19

1. The **S**ilence regarding a Special Priesthood (Clergy) in the New Testament.

2. The **A**bsence of a Special Priesthood.

 No mention in the list of …

1. special gifts to the church. Eph. 4 and 2
2. personages connected with the church of God. Acts 20:17, 28; I Tim. 3; Tit. 1:5-9
* There is no Special Class of Priests among Believers.

3. The **P**resence of the Christian Priesthood in the New Testament or Who are Constituted Priests?

 a. All who are **B**elievers in Christ I Pet. 2:5, 9

1. In Peter’s Epistle. I Pet. 1:23; 2:2,
2. In the book of Revelation. Rev. 1:5, 6; 5:9, 10

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

 **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.

 Thus, we enter with open lips to **C**onfess …

 All our **S**ins and the all-**S**upremacy of our Lord.

 Cf. Heb. 12:28-29 – *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved,*

 *let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:*

 *For our God is a consuming fire*.

Note: The Silence in the Church. I Cor. 14:34, 35

 Let all things be done decently and in order. I Cor. 14:40

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

i.e. based on the arguments before, viz. the obedience of Christ.

 It is based 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 Ct. The Role of 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

1. *Dead works*, i.e. the things we feel we ought to do,

but which we have never quite succeeded in doing. Cf. Rom. 7:24, 25

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

**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

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*” – Christ, Himself.

**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**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) in priestly ministry – *the holiest* He. 10:19 (lit. = the holy places).

 When Christ’s work was completed, the Veil 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.***

Coming Meetings in BRGH in 2020, D. V.

January 26 – Chinese New Year of the Rat

April

 19 – Pt. 2: The Character of our High Priest

 26 – Pt. 3: The Conditions of the Christian Priesthood

 August

 16 – Pt. 4: The Commitment of the Priests.

 23 – The Christian Priesthood (?)

Acknowledgement:
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