Good Morning

Yesterday we looked at how to know that you are a believer, a follower of Jesus. The author of Hebrews was convinced of the salvation of his “holy brethren” because of the work and love they displayed in having ministered and now still ministering to the saints. In other words, their life proved God’s grace in them (Heb. 6:9-10). This section was a “half-time coach’s speech” for them to continue as they lived until the end when they follow Jesus and “enter inside the veil” of the presence of God (6:19-20).

Hebrews chapter 7 stresses that Jesus enters in the veil as a High Priest and remains there because he is the perfect High Priest. The whole chapter states that Jesus is priest of the order of Melchizedek of Salem. As such a priest, He is the King of Righteousness and King of Peace – that is what the name means in Hebrew. He is also a permanent priest who does not die (7:6-7, 21, 24).

What does that mean actively for us? By that I mean what did God do for us through all this? All of this work that He did was for us – obviously! It is obvious because God did not need to do any of this becoming human, preaching and healing, dying on a cross and rising again except that He had us in mind. At the risk of delving into areas we just cannot understand, I think that God could find lots of other things to do in heaven than minister for a group of at best semi-thankful humans.

So this author of Hebrews rejoices to point out that we have a perfect High Priest Who can permanently intercede for us and save us forever (7:25). That is because He offered a holy, innocent, undefiled sacrifice (26) that was different from sinners that therefore needed to be offered only once and that for all people and all time (27). That sacrifice was Himself.

Now all of that is absolutely wonderful and beyond our complete comprehension, but we need to look carefully at the last verse in this chapter and the last phrase in that verse. “A Son made perfect forever,” is a statement that is loaded with the intentions and heart of God. The Greek word “to make perfect” does not mean Jesus lacked some virtue He needed to be perfect. It means that a project of prophecy has not been finished and is “made perfect” when it is completed. So, theologically the intentions of God were finished in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. He cannot be God our Savior until He has saved.

We recognize the heart of God in this phrase in that before God even decided to create us, He knew we would fall and He would have to die to save us. When He made us, He knew about the cross. So we can never rejoice in a permanent Priest in the Heavens who always lives to make intercession for us, without remembering that we are the reason that He is needed. And - that it is His very nature to be there doing that for us.

In Christ Pastor EA