

## Jesus Christ - Our Great High Priest (Part Two)

### I. Introduction

- Today, as last week, I am speaking to believers: proclaiming most imp. message we will hear concerning relationship with God - JC as our HP

### I. Review: God's Provision - JCs Present Ministry

#### (A) Where is Jesus today

- He is the heavenly sanctuary, beyond stellar sky
- Not of this creation, in the Holy of Holies
- Seated on God's throne (Hebrews 1:1-4; 9:24)
- JC has been appointed by God as our High Priest

#### (B) What is He presently doing?

- What is He doing as HP?
- Hebrews 2:17
- Making **propitiation** for sins of His people
- That is cleansing us from sin/all unrighteousness
- If we confess them - 1 John 1:9 (not automatic)
- How does a Holy God forgive & cleanse?
- JC entered HoHs through the blood of His perfect, one time sacrifice
- He **mediates** sacrifice before G as we confess sin
- Many don't think they need to confess sin
- While JC died for sin, His sacrifice is meaningless, unless he enters the HoHs through His blood and mediates that sacrifice before God
- While we confess our sins
- What is **confession** of sin?
- Agreeing with God that my unrighteous behavior is sin and I need to repent - turn away from sin
- If I confess my sins, God not only forgives, but **cleanses** our conscience (Hebrews 9:14;10:4)
- Sins stain in mind & conscience is removed
- There is only one way God has mandated for a believer to receive forgiveness/cleansing
- IF we confess our sins
- The grace of God for the forgiveness/cleansing of our sins is ONLY found at the throne of Grace
- If I seek in any where else, it is not available

### II. God's Priority - Righteousness

- The Apostle John makes an astounding statement
- Read 1 John 2:1a
- John appealing as their spiritual father
- Writing to them, so may not sin (purpose of Ltr)
- To most, that is an amazing statement
- John's desire - his spiritual children; would not sin
- Not be like those who departed from group
- If they did sin, they had an advocate with Father
- Read 1 John 2:1b-2
- Believer's can sin; but it should be the exception
- John's desire: that they would not sin
- Turn away from sin, toward righteous God
- That sin would not be pattern/practice in their life
- John's desire reflect God's desire & expectation:
- That by faith believers should turn away from sin and behave righteously before Him
- Should/must be the desire of every believer of JC

### (A) What is righteousness? Where is it defined?

- It is not defined by this world system
- Do we think Satan would define righteousness?
- Righteousness found/defined in the Scriptures
- If we are not reading, inhaling them, how can we know and practice the righteousness of God?
- God has defined sphere of His grace in Scriptures
- If we don't look for definition in the Scriptures, then we look to other sources for our definition
- Define righteousness based on our own standard
- Compare ourselves to others, not God
- God expects His people to know, understand, and practice what is recorded in the Scriptures
- How much time spent in this book this week?

### (B) Die to Sin and Live to Righteousness

- Few "Christians" believe that they can "not sin"
- We have been told that we can't help but sin
- That God has given His people a sin nature
- What do the Scriptures say?
- God commanded His people be Holy (1 Pet. 1:16)
- Purpose for JCs' death on cross - so we could die to sin and live to righteousness (1 Pet. 2:24)
  - Is it possible for a dead person to sin?
- So that we would no longer for the lusts of men, but the will of God (1 Peter 4:1-6)
- Paul, addressing holy ones in Rome: How shall we who died to sin still live in it (Romans 6:1-2)
- God's expectation: Holiness/Righteousness

### (C) Righteousness; Keeping His Commandments

- Exactly what Apostle John says: 1 John 2:3-6
- If we keep His commandments - we know JC
- If don't keep commandments - don't know Him
- Jesus said, "If you love me . . ." (John 14:15)
- If I say that I love God, but don't keep His Commandments, I Don't Love God
- This is what the Jesus of the Scriptures says

### III. What is My Priority?

- But if we truly love God, we should want to keep His commandments
- We want to by faith walk righteously before Him
- For our life to reflect His priority: holiness and righteousness
- Easy to say the words, "I love God"
- God knows we love him, not by our words but by turning away from sin & keeping commandments
- That means when I sin, by faith, I avail myself of God's only provision for sin - JC present ministry
  - Confess my sin - turn away from it
  - Begin to live righteously by keeping commands
- Then I will be forgiven/conscience cleansed
- I have fellowship with God
- Sadly, **history reflects** that fact that most of His people reject God's righteousness and embrace the world's system; the "present evil age"
- Fill our minds with what is important from world
- Apostle John: Do not love the world . . .

- We exchange our love for God, with a love for the world and its sin and unrighteousness
- We come to believe that we can sin, be worldly, behave unrighteously, and love God
- We have been deceived
- 1 John 1:5-6
- It is impossible to have fellowship with God and walk in the darkness
- God mandated only one solution: Confess our sin

#### **IV. God's Love for Us**

- Today is Father's Day
- What Father, who loves his children, says to them, "Do whatever you want, will be no consequences"
- Fathers (and Mothers) - think about when you were expecting your first child/your children
- The hope and dreams you had for them
- Would those dreams include your children practicing sin; living unrighteously?
- Would we want our children to become thieves, liars, adulterers, slanderers, deceivers, etc?
- Why?
- We love our children, want what is best for them
- How much more does our Heavenly Father love us and want what is best for us!
- And that is not to practice sin, but righteousness
- God loves His children!
- He has demonstrated His love through the death of His Son, through the provision of JC as Our HP
- Will we truly love God?
- If we do, we will keep His commandments

#### **V. Why JC Present Ministry is Important to Me Now and At My Resurrection**

- Quite simply, sin has devastating consequences

##### **(A) Now**

- The problem: we sin we don't see any immediate devastating consequences
- So we conclude: If I don't see any consequences for my sin, there must not be any
- In fact, often, sin can be enjoyable for a time
- But make no mistake, sin always has negative consequences for us and the people around us
- Illustration: Church steeple
  - Started small; over time, \$\$\$ of damages
- Everyone here could talk about their own experience of consequences of sin, their or others
- The present evil age never tells us the consequences for the sin it promotes

##### **(B) At Our Resurrection**

- When Jesus returns, He will set up a Kingdom of righteousness and rule on David's Throne
- A literally Kingdom on earth (not spiritual)
- Will rule with scepter of righteousness: (Heb. 1:8)
- His righteous companions will rule with Him
- His people will be resurrected
- They will give an account at the Judgement Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10)

- Our deeds are a reflection of our faith
- Jesus told the people of God in His day: Righteousness must exceed religious leaders in order to enter the Kingdom of God (Matt. 5:20)
- Jesus said to "Seek first the Kingdom (Matt. 6:33)
- Those who practice lawlessness will not enter the Kingdom of God (Matthew 7:21-23)
- That is why the Apostles consistently warned believers to turn away from unrighteousness
- One of many passages:
- Ephesians 5:1-6
  - Optional - if I have time:
    - Galatians 5:19-24; Matthew 25:21, 30
- Hebrews 10:30-31: "The Lord will judge His people. It is a terrifying thing . . ."
- God doesn't want to bring adverse judgment against His people
- He has provided the only means by His grace that can divert His judgement for sin from me
- JC, our Great High Priest is seated on the throne of Grace, available for us to confess our sin, to turn from it, and behave righteously
- It is up to us to choose - "Well Done" or His judgement for our sin
- If we love God, by faith, we will believe what He says about sin, even if don't see consequences
- We will draw near to the throne of Grace
- Hebrews 4:14-16

#### **VI. Our Response**

- Will we turn away from sin to Throne of Grace?
- Keep facing away from God and reject the throne of Grace
- Our Great HP is seated on the Throne of Grace, ready to making propitiation for our sin