

Hebrews 2025 | Jesus: Our Source of Eternal Salvation

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Hebrews 5:1-10

We've been talking about Jesus as our great high priest and I want to make a little confession to you. I realized this week that I think I have a negative view of priests so I'm going to confess to all my priest friends now. I'm sorry and I've tried to think about why I have a negative view of priests. I think for one I'm a Baptist kid so I've been told my whole life that we don't need a priest. We don't need a priest because we've got Jesus, right? Then I got to go to Rome during my last year of seminary and I got to visit St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican, and all of those different things. I was able to see the beauty and also the tragedy of some of the ways that we've done religion. I was able to also go to a few churches and in one of them they had something they called the holy stairs and apparently it's the stairs that Jesus was executed on or where Pilate condemned him to the cross. This is the same set of stairs and they built a church around them. Supposedly if you kneel at each one of these stairs you get a certain amount of your sins removed and a certain amount of time in purgatory off your sentence. Then I go to the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica where they have a holy door. It was shut when I was there but if you were to go this year it's open because it's the year of Jubilee so there will be lines and lines of pilgrims walking through this door because if you walk through this door you get a certain amount of time in purgatory removed and a certain amount of your sins removed. You get forgiveness if you walk through this door.

As I was at this door I was thinking... *who is in charge of this? Who is running this?*... I could see these guys who are priests in charge. I can understand if you're a pilgrim and you haven't read your Bible that you wouldn't know any better but what about Hebrews? It's pretty clear that the only guy that can deal with sin is a guy named Jesus. It's only him. You don't need stairs. You don't need a door. He is the door. You need Jesus.

Then I think about the New Testament. When you go to the New Testament who are Jesus' enemies constantly? It's the high priests. It's the pharisees, the scribes, and the religious people who are the enemies of Jesus so when I am just thinking through Hebrews and about priests I sort of have a negative view but here is what I want to note. I don't think the audience who heard this sermon had a negative view of priests. I think they loved priests. I think they were endearing to priests and here is what I want to say- being a priest in the Old Testament was a holy, good occupation. The priest is a great position it's just obsolete now. It's been done away with because Christ is our perfect high priest. So as we read about the priesthood here in just a moment, I think these people thought about the priesthood probably how you think about Brother Ricky. You just go, give him a hug, and shake his hand. You love him and endear him. It's awesome. Maybe that is how you think about your pastors, Chase or Chris, and hopefully me as well. They're the guys that pray for us, that show up for us, that counsel us, and that are here for us. They're going to be the ones that come to the hospital when you're there. They're the guys that show up and you are hopefully endeared to us to a certain degree because we're your pastors and I think it's the same thing for these Hebrew people. They were endeared to these priests who had helped them through situations and what I've seen just in the text that we're going to read is that there is a very honorable position of being a priest to help the people to bridge between God and man. It's a great thing. The issue now is that it's obsolete because the great one has come. There is a better priest. There is the fulfillment of the priesthood. There is THE high priest and his name is Jesus so you don't need priests with an "s" you need one priest. So I came to the conclusion for me, a Baptist, that I don't need a priest. Well, yes I do. I need a priest because I've got a sin problem but I don't need an earthly priest. I need the Lord Jesus and I don't just need a priest but I need salvation.

In this text about priesthood we are going to see that Jesus is the source of our eternal salvation. As the high priest, Jesus is the source of our eternal salvation. So I want to ask this- do you have him as your source? Can you really say Jesus is your source? Can you say Jesus is the one you're connected in, the one you're trusting in, and the one you're holding onto? It's all Jesus or nothing. That is what I have. It's all Christ.

The reason I started this way is because the first four verses we are going to read are about the priest in general and you're going to see it's a very endearing position. The first four verses are about the priest in general and then verses five through ten are about Jesus in particular as our new and better high priest.

Scripture:

Hebrews 5:1-10 For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. 3 Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. 4 And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. 5 So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; 6 as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." 7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, 10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

So again, the priesthood is an endearing position. They would have loved the priest. They would have had a good view of the priest so in verses one through four he is going over the priesthood and the first thing we see is they're of the people. The priest that he's talking about, this high priest or even just priests in general, are of the people. Notice what it says, "For every high priest chosen from among men..." So the high priest is selected. They don't go outside of the people and look somewhere else. No, they are one of the people. They are selected from among them. So the high priest was a buddy of yours once. You would have grown up with the high priest. He was selected from among you which by the way Jesus and the argument in Hebrews is that he isn't an angel and he isn't an alien. He is from among us. He is one of us. Jesus had to be human to be selected

from us to become the great high priest. So they're of the people. They would have been endeared to the people.

The second thing we see is that the high priest is a bridge between God and man. Notice what it says, "For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God." So the high priest is appointed to do something and what is that? To act in relation between man and God. So there is this chasm between man and God. Why? Because man is sinful and God is holy. If you want to interact with a holy God there has to be a mediator between you and God. You can't just go bring your sacrifice. You can't just come and do business before the Lord in the tabernacle or the temple. There has to be a priest who mediates that. You give the priest your offering and then the priest goes and does the work on behalf of you to God and then on behalf of God to you. So this forgiveness, this cleansing, happens by a mediator who is the priest who is doing a priestly work.

So of course you're going to love the priest, right? The priest is how I get to God. If I don't have the priest then I can't get to God on my own. I need the priest to do the work for me on behalf of God. Then we have Paul who would write to Timothy and what would he say?... *Hey! Jesus is the perfect mediator between God and man. Why? Because he's the God Man, Jesus Christ. He's perfect because he's man and he's also God. Therefore, he can perfectly represent you and also perfectly represent God...*

So we have this bridge but what else did the high priest do? He dealt with sin. Notice this, "...to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins." That is what the high priest does. He is dealing with your sin and your waywardness. He is offering gifts on your behalf. What I imagine with the people that are hearing this message that grew up in Judaism, the people of the Old Testament, is that they were probably a lot more aware of their sin than maybe we are. Do you know why? Because they had to deal with it all the time. When you sinned you had to pick a sacrifice and bring the sacrifice to the temple, give it to the priest, and the priest would offer it. You had to continually do that. Just imagine if Sunday morning worship included you bringing your sacrifice to me for me to sacrifice it. You would probably be more aware of your sin. Imagine if there was a line outside and everyone had their goat and they were bringing it in to sacrifice. It's like... *Oh man,*

Austin has a goat. I wonder what he did this week... Think of the shame with that... *Yeah, I know. I did it again. Here's my goat...* Everybody would see the goat, right? It's right there! Then what if Zach had a sheep brought in. What did he do? Christian over there has a bull. Oh man, what did he do? If you brought a turtle dove it's no big deal, right? We all do turtle dove stuff, right? But, everyone would be bringing their stuff. We'd all be sacrificing things and we would all be more aware of our sin.

The Old Testament reflex is this- when you sin something dies. You mess up and something dies. You mess up and you bring it to the priest who is kind of a butcher and he sacrifices it. You need a priest to deal with your sin and we're going to see all throughout Hebrews the good news. Christ deals with it once and for all. You don't have to keep bringing them because Christ is our perfect lamb.

Not only does the high priest deal with sin, but he deals gently with sinners. It's very interesting how he brings this in. Notice what it says, "He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward." That is us by the way. That just describes us. Guess who you are. You're ignorant and wayward. That is pretty much us. As people of God we are so ignorant and wayward but there is good news. We have somebody who stands in our place. So the high priest can do what? He deals gently with ignorant and wayward. Why? "Since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people."

Here is what I think is so endearing about the high priest to the people. The high priest was also a sinner. The high priest messed up too. The high priest had to have his own sacrifice. The high priest knows what you're going through because he's been there. He's blown it so he has to also sacrifice for his own sin. When you come to him with your confession he is like... *Yeah, I know. Man, me too. We're all in this. Here is the sacrifice. Let's all try to pursue the Lord...*

The question that I had this week is this. Can we also say Jesus deals gently with us? Because the connection here is that they high priest is gentle because he is also a sinner who sins and needs his own sacrifice but Jesus is not a sinner. Jesus didn't sin so can Jesus deal gently with us? And

I want to say the answer is yes but for a different reason. If you zoom out a little bit what did we learn last week? Christ, our high priest, can sympathize with us because he's been tempted like us yet without sin. In other words, he's been exactly where you were when you sin. He's been through that. He walked through that yet in that temptation he went further than you did because you took the exit road. He kept going and kept going and kept going. He never gave in. He always said yes. So he actually knows better than you what that's like because he never let up. He always said yes. So he can relate to you and he can feel what you're going through because he too has been tempted but yet he always said yes to God and no to sin. He can relate to you and he can sympathize with you but what we're also going to see at the end of our text is that he learned obedience through suffering. He had to suffer like you do in real life. He became a real man and lived a real life so he can deal gently with you. so I think this is also applicable to Jesus for a different reason. Not because he's a sinner but because he knows what it's like to live like you. He knows what it's like to experience life here on earth so he can deal gently too.

I get permission to say that because Jesus would say that about himself. Matthew chapter 11, verse 28 says this, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." I love that! If you are burdened and burnt out and can't make it come to Jesus, his burden is light. And do you know what his heart is? He's gently and lowly and that is his disposition towards you. Dane Ortlund wrote a great book called, "Gentle and Lowly" if you want to read it. It's fantastic. It's dealing with the heart of Jesus towards sinners. He's gentle and lowly. He doesn't come at you harshly. He comes at you gently. The song we're going to sing as our response song says he is strong and he is kind- both of those things together- and that is why we get to come to Jesus who is gentle in dealing with us.

It's also the heart of God. If you go back to Exodus chapter 34 do you know what God says his name is? He says he is a God who is slow to anger but abounding in steadfast love. Think about the difference. Slow to anger. Yes, God has anger and wrath because he is holy and we are sinful but he has a long wick. He is slow and patience and enduring with all of your mess, junk, and sin. It is very slow. He is not quick tempered. He is not

short. He is not harsh. He is slow to anger but he is abounding. It is just what he does! His natural disposition towards you is love. It's his reflex! He loves because he is love! He is gentle, he is lowly, he is loving, and he is kind and I want to say that because maybe in your home experience you didn't grow up with parents who were kind. They were harsh and you think God is harsh because your parents were harsh. Maybe you grew up in a religious system that was harsh. Your pastor was harsh or your priest was harsh. Somebody was harsh to you so you think God is harsh because that is your experience. That is not true at all. We can't judge God based on people who are fallen. We base God on who he is. He is gentle, lowly, kind, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. He knows you. He gets you. He stands with you. He is gentle towards you.

Notice, the last thing about the priest that we see in general and then we're going to get to Jesus. They're called by God. In other words, they didn't sign up for it. It says this, "And no one takes this honor." That is the word I had to repent of for having a negative view of priests. It's an honorable position. It's just been passed over. There is a new priest. It's honorable. It was honorable during the Old Testament. "And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was." In other words, those high priests that the people loved didn't sign up for it, pass the test for it, or get an internship, mentor, and then grow into it. No, God picked them so the reason they are so endeared to them is because they are God's chosen high priests. God chose and picked them so it's a beautiful thing and I think these people would have been very endeared to their leaders that are over them because they know they didn't sign up for it but rather God called them into it.

I can relate to this because I promise you if God would not have called me I would be doing something else. If you were to look at the pattern of my life you wouldn't think that I was going to be a preacher. No, you'd think the opposite of that but God got ahold of me, called me, and now I'm doing this and I couldn't imagine anything else but it wasn't like there was a sign-up sheet where I thought I was going to do this when I got older. No, God called me into this. It's the same thing with these priests. It is a called position not a sign-up for position.

Now we're going to transition into Jesus because here is what I think his point here is- church, if you love your priest, how much more should you love Jesus? If you love the guy who has counseled you, been with you, and helped you through sin- he's a sinner too but he's got your side-how much better is Jesus who can do all that without sin and can actually be your source of salvation? In other words, you love the priest because he helps you. Love Jesus because he can save you! That is so much better.

They love their priest so now love Jesus as your full, final high priest. First he's going to argue that you should love Jesus more because Jesus is God's pick. He is the final and forever high priest. Notice what verse 5 says, "So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; 6 as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." In other words, Jesus is the same story. He didn't sign up for this. God appointed him for this task. He is the Son and he is also the order of Melchizedek. Now, some of you are saying, "Who?!" I am going to assume that some of the people in that audience would have said the same thing... *Who is Melchizedek? We know Aaron. Who is Melchizedek?*... Well, you have to go back to the Old Testament and go back to this story. The preacher is not going to explain that here. He is going to leave the tension there and then he's going to spend two chapters- chapters 7 and 8- explaining Melchizedek. So we'll get there but here is what you need to know about Melchizedek right now. It means he gets to be a priest king and Jesus gets to be priest king forever. He gets to be an eternal priest king. See, all the other priests died but notice what it says about Jesus. He is forever. He is the forever priest because he doesn't die. So the line has been replaced. Aaron's line of priesthood is replaced by Melchizedek's where the priest is now Jesus and we will get into all of that in chapter seven.

Next let's look at Jesus as the better high priest, the greater high priest, and here is what I want us to see about Jesus- how Jesus became the source of our eternal salvation because that is the main thing that I want you to take home. Jesus is the source of our eternal salvation. How did he get that and how does he give that to us?

I want to read the text again. Let's look at verses 7 through 10 and then I just want to walk through it. Here is what it says, "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, 10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek."

There are three big things and then seven things I want to zoom in on seven reasons why Jesus is the source of eternal salvation. First, Jesus lived a perfect life unto God. He lived the life you should have unto God. Second, Jesus learned obedience through suffering. In other words, he always obeyed where you did not and by doing that he became the perfect source of our eternal salvation.

Now let's see how that happened. First, Jesus prayed. It's right in the text. Jesus prayed. Notice what it says in verse seven, "In the days of his flesh..." What is that referring to? His life here on earth. The life he lived. And notice it's not "a day" but it's "days. I think there is an illusion in this prayer. As you read it you probably thought back to the garden prayer where he is agonizing and he's crying. I do think it's partially about the garden but I think it's all of the prayers of Jesus in all the days of his life. In all the days of his life, do you know what Jesus did? He prayed. "In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears..." I don't think that is one moment in the garden. I think that's the whole life of Jesus. He's praying, he's asking for things, he's weeping over things, and he's crying out about things. Just look at Jesus' life. He does those things. He weeps and cries over Jerusalem. He prays the psalms and the psalms are cries out loud to God.

So here is what we see. Jesus prayed. But, do you know what that tells us? It tells us that Jesus was dependent on God and that is a life unto God. It's a life dependent on God. See, what prayer does is exposes our dependence or lack of dependence on God. If you have a vibrant prayer life you are dependent on God. If you have more like a prayer death than life then it shows that you are independent. You're good. You've got it all figured out. It's all you. You don't need any help and if you do then you'll ask

sometimes but you don't ever need to ask because you don't ever need help. You've got your own boot straps, you're pulling them up, and you've got it. You're fighting and you can do it.

See, lack of prayer is lack of dependence on God. If you don't pray you're independent from him and I've got some news. You don't want to be independent from God. You want to be solely dependent on your Creator as a creature. So because Jesus prayed he is showing that he is not independent but he's dependent on his Father. He is praying to him and asking things of him. Jesus had a vibrant prayer life. His disciples even asked Jesus to teach them how to pray because he had it down. He went all the time. He prayed constantly throughout the gospels and not only is he praying about the normal things of life but when life got hard he was crying out. When life was tragic he was weeping. So in all of your life in joy, in grief, in sorrow, and in hardship, what should you do? Pray to God. That is a life unto God. In other words, you can't live a life unto God without praying regularly to God.

So, how is your prayer life? You're thinking... *Well, let's stay on Jesus. Let's not go to me...* That would be nice, right? But what about you? Seriously, how is your prayer life? Does your prayer life show that you're dependent on God or does it show your dependent on yourself? Lack of prayer shows you're in control. A vibrant prayer life shows he is in control. How is your prayer life? How is that working out for you?

Notice, we see he prayed and in prayer he is trusting God. Notice what his prayers were. "To him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence." I think there we have an illusion to these tears and we think about him crying out at the Garden of Gethsemane and he's trusting God that can save him even from death. He knows the cross is about to happen. In that garden prayer Jesus says, "my soul is very troubled even to death." He felt like he was going to die. The gospel writers say he would sweat drops of blood because he was in so much anguish. Why? Because yes, he's God, but he's also a man and as a man he knows what the cross is like. He knows what he's going to have to go through to adopt many sons to glory. He knows he's going to face the Father's wrath. He knows he's going to be separated from God. He knows he's going to be our sin atonement. He knows what the Roman soldiers are

going to do. He knows all of that so he's praying, he's groaning, and he's crying out. In fact, in one of his prayer he says, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." ... *If there is any way, God, can we just skip the cross and bring them to glory?...* He knows that's not possible but in his human experience he asks if there is any other way. He know there's not so what does he say?... *Not my will, but your will. God, not me but you. I know I'm going to have to suffer here and I'm willing to go through suffering. Yeah, my right now desire is comfort and I don't want to be in pain but my highest desire is your glory and bringing many sons to glory. So I choose my higher desire rather than my right now desire...*

Do you realize that is every moment of our lives? Every moment of this coming week is going to be a fight between your right now desires or the higher desire to follow God's will. Because I've got news for you. Your natural, right now desire is often contrary to God's will. Have you ever noticed that? Right now desires are comfort, safety, food, to just hang out. You just want to live your life but the higher desires all want to follow God and often what God says no to you want to do and what God says to do you don't want to do. Have you ever noticed how that works? So what do we do? We want to do one thing and God says another. *Not my will, but your will, God. That is a life unto God... Hey, God, you want me to do this but I want to do this. Not my will, but your will...* That is a life unto God and I've got news for you. With Jesus as our eternal source of salvation, you have the Holy Spirit in you, you can live the life unto God like Jesus lived it. He's given you the ability to do this type of work.

So Jesus prayed, he trusted God, and notice what he says about God... *God, you are able to save me from death. I know the cross. I know there is going to be a tomb. I know it has to go one. I know I'm going to be raised from the dead and I'm trusting you to do that. I'm trusting you to save me from death and trusting you to save me from whatever is going to come...* Why? Because God is able and we need to remember that little phrase in our prayer life. God is able. Do you know what that does? It causes us to pray... *What if I'm in a situation like this...* God is able. God is able to do what? To do whatever! God can do the impossible. There is nothing impossible with God. God is able. He might not do it but he is able to do it. So we're praying to God who is strong, who is able. It says that Jesus was

heard because of his reverence so what does that mean? I think it means he's living a proverbs life. He is fearing the Lord and leaning not on his own understanding. He's believing that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. He's walking in the ways of the proverb. He is having a reverence, an awe towards his heavenly Father. He isn't flippant. No, he's coming before his Father. He knows who his Father is and he has a reverence and by honoring the Father he is being heard by the Father. And I think too that we need to honor God. We need to have reverent prayers towards God. Yes, we can cry, "Abba, Father" but it needs to be a heart that is right and is approaching him correcting because he is also the Lord of Heaven and Earth. We should have a reverence towards God in our prayer life.

So he is praying, he is trusting, and then we see in verse eight that Jesus learned obedience through suffering. So what exactly do we do with this? Notice what it says, "Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered." So what does it mean when it says that he learned obedience through suffering? That is kind of troubling for us. Did he not know how to obey and he had to learn? What is doesn't mean is that Jesus was disobedient and through a lot of spanking he had to become obedient. That is not what it means. He wasn't disobedient and had to become obedient. No, instead he was untested and had to prove his testing. He had to show he was truly the obedient one. It wasn't that he was not obedient and had to become obedient. No, he is obedient. He's always been obedient but he had to show up and show to the world that no matter what happens he is going to be obedient. He had to learn obedience through suffering. He had to go through some stuff and learn... *Okay, I'm trusting God... Okay, I'm trusting God...* Every single time he had to trust God and we have to see that in real life whether he actually does it or not.

If you're a college football fan, Arch Manning was the big name before this season started. They were saying he's going to be the Heisman winner and he's going to be the biggest thing in football. He's awesome. Why? Look at his name! His name is Arch Manning. His grandad is Archie Manning. Two of his uncles are pretty good football players- Eli and Peyton. Can you imagine going to Thanksgiving and playing some flag football with this family? Who are you picking? Can you imagine being Arch and growing up

in that and seeing that whole environment? I wonder what that was like but now it's his turn. He has the name but the question is this- can he play? He has the name. Can he play the game? We're going to see this in real time. Some of us think he has potential. Some of us have written him off and think he's terrible and he isn't going to make it. But the question is still out on whether he's actually going to live up to his name.

See, here is what Jesus does. He is the son but the question is can he play the game? Can he actually be put into this real world with real temptations and real life, become a human and live the life we couldn't? Can he actually do that? Can he play the game? Jesus took upon the name, he came, and he played the game perfectly. In every play he is on. Through all of the hits and all of the stuff he's proving that he is obedient. He's always obedient and the more he went through the more he was learning the reflex to just trust God. The more he does it the more he's learning obedience and leaning into obedience because let's be real, eight year old Jesus obeying mom was probably different than 13 year old Jesus obeying mom. Have any of you been in that stage yet where you had eight year olds and then 13 year olds? It gets complicated, doesn't it? There is all sorts of stuff. There is a whole lot of emotions and there is a whole lot of growth coming. All of a sudden Jesus was going through those life stages that we all go through too. He went through puberty. Then he was on his own and out of the house. He was doing his own work, going around, dealing with friends and those complications, dealing with a ministry, people coming, and fame. There were all these different layers to his life and the question is this- can he play the game in all of these things? Not just the pre-game but what about the big moments? Can he always pass? And what is the answer? Yes! He learned obedience through what he suffered. He continued to stay the course. He lived out Romans 5:3, "we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame."

So do you know what our application is? We rejoice in our suffering too. Why? Because in suffering we learn the reflex of obedience. When it's hard trusting God we learn to trust God again when it gets harder. We get to do the same thing that the Lord Jesus did. So he didn't go from imperfection or disobedience to obedience. No, he went from untested to tested and

proved. He has always been obedient. He is without sin yet he had to live a life and show he doesn't just have the name but he can actually play the game.

Then notice it says Jesus was made perfect. Verse 9 says this, "and being made perfect..." Again, what exactly does that mean? It isn't going from imperfection to perfection but incomplete to complete. In other words, what is his perfection? His perfection as our high priest, his perfection as our source of salvation, he had to do something, he had to walk through something to get that completion. He had to run the race.

Yesterday we were coming over the bridge from a campout. We left early in the morning and as we were crossing we saw runners running over the bridge. They did the Bridge-To-Bridge Run and we got to see the finish line. It was kind of cool because as we were watching we got to see people that we knew. It was like... *Oh, there's Stevie Stout. Oh, there's Chris Lawrence. Oh, there's Tyler Hardin...* We could see these people going across the bridge. Do you know what we got to witness? We got to witness people running over the finish line. We didn't see Josh because he was like 18 minutes ahead of everyone. It was crazy but he did it. He finished. He won. He got the prize. Do you know what Josh can say?... *Hey, I didn't just sign up for the race. I didn't just start the race. I got a plaque that says I finished the race and I finished in first...* That is Jesus! He didn't just sign up. He didn't just come into this world. He didn't just take on a human body. No, he actually started the race and he finished it. He completed it. He is our perfect high priest who never sinned and can come and sympathize with us in our sin. He finished it! He has been made perfect! He did it! He has full righteousness to give to you. He can say... *I've got it. All of it. Right here and right now. Righteousness- I can just give it to you as a gift because I completed it. I did it. Now I can give it to you and I can be your eternal source of salvation...*

Notice this eternal source of salvation. We get to verse 9 and it says this, "And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation." He is the source. He is the person who salvation comes from. He is the source of it. He is the beginning of it and the continuation of it. He is like the spring where it is welling up and all the streams are being fed by this spring. Who

is it? It's Christ. Christ is the source. Christ is the one who is our true salvation.

See, the source matters. What you're hooked up to matters. I told you we went camping. On Friday night we had a father/son camp at the school my kids go to and one thing you learn about camping is that most of your plugins don't work in the woods. Some of the guys had to learn that the hard way. I won't say any names but there was one guy who was bragging a little bit on Friday night about his coffee he was going to make in the morning. He had a grinder, a French press, and all of this stuff set up. He said, "Guys, I've got coffee in the morning. It's going to be great. Don't worry. It's going to be awesome." I thought... *Cool, that's great! I brought stuff but I'll just use his stuff...*

Well, I got out of my tent on Saturday morning a little bit later than the other guys and they were already around the campfire but I could tell it was just all grumpy men. I go up and first thing they say is, "Kory, do you have a way to make coffee?" I said, "What? I thought..." He said, "Yeah, my grinder is electric, my coffee pot is electric, and there are no plugins." Really? The tree doesn't have a plug-in! It won't do anything! So I say, "I got you." I pull out my Jet Bull and light it because it runs on gas. It's a different source. The source doesn't plug-in anywhere. So I put the water on it, pull it up, pour it over, make everybody coffee, and save the day but in moments like that your source really matters. If you have a source that you have to plug in for it to work then what happens when the plug-in isn't there? See, some of you have a source of salvation that works right now and it's working for a little bit but you're going to get to a place where God is going to stand before you and you think you have your own righteousness, you have your own works, you have church attendance, and you have your own goodness. God is going to say that's the wrong source. The only source of salvation is Jesus. The only source of salvation is God's Son and if you don't have Him then it isn't going to work.

So, I just want to ask, is Jesus truly your source of salvation? Is He the one that you're relying on, plugged into, who is not going to ever leave and forsake you, are you truly trusting in him? Because here is what I heard a preacher once say and I think it's really good. He said what we do is, in our fallenness, make our own version of hell and our own version of heaven

and then we run to a savior or a source of salvation to save us from hell and get us to heaven. I'll just give you some examples and maybe one of these applies to you.

Maybe for you hell is loneliness. Well, heaven then is a relationship so what is your source of salvation? It's him or it's her. It's the boyfriend, the girlfriend, the husband, or the wife. It's the illicit affair. Whatever it is, it's this thing that you have to have because you're lonely and you want to have a relationship because that is where happiness is. That is your heaven so you go to a functional savior to save you.

Maybe for some of you boredom is hell and heaven is entertainment so you run to things like Netflix, sports, or the internet. If you're entertained all the time then you are saved. Well, eventually that's not going to last. Eventually the entertainment is going to go away.

Maybe for you hell is suffering and heaven is pleasure. So hedonism and you just go to the next drug, next drink, or next illicit thing that you do to get more and more. If you just have pleasure then you have all that you need but eventually the pleasure is going to wear out and you'll be back in the hell that you're trying to escape.

Maybe for you hell is being poor and heaven is being rich. So what is your savior? What is your source of salvation? It's money. If you can just make enough money then you'll be in heaven and not in hell. Guess what? Your money is going to run out. You can't take it with you.

Maybe for you hell is American decline and heaven is American prosperity. Do you know what your savior is? It's the president. It's the government. It's your elected officials. It's how your political party is doing. That is your savior. That is your source of salvation. If you can be here and not there then we're all saved. I've got news. This is not our home forever. It's not a true heaven and it's not a true hell.

Maybe for you hell is a meaningless life so finding your purpose and meaning is heaven. If you get the right job, the right career, the right hobby, the right betting line, or the right thing then you'll be saved forever.

I've got news for all of us. There is a real hell and there is a real heaven. The real hell is that you're a sinner separated from God and you're going to face separation from him forever and right now you're in hell if you're separated from him and you're going to be that way forever. There is a real heaven and it's reconciliation back to God. It's having a relationship back with the one who made you. That's real heaven and we get to live with him forever. There is a real savior, a real source of salvation, and his name is Jesus Christ! He died and rose again to save you from your sins; to give you his righteousness so you can be reconnected to God. That is what you need. You need escape from the real hell into the real heaven by a real savior and his name is Jesus Christ. That is what this preacher is trying to get this little struggling church to cling to- cling to Jesus. Hope in Jesus only.

Then notice who this is available to. It's those who obey Jesus. Notice the next line. It says this, "to all who obey him." So who has this source of salvation? Who has Jesus as their source flowing in them and through them? It's those who obey him. I know some of you are like... *Wait. I thought it was just belief...* Well, I have news for you. Belief includes obedience. If you believe in Jesus you'll obey him because believing in him is saying that he is your savior and he is your lord. Lord means he's the boss. Faith means following. You follow Jesus. You obey Jesus. You do what he says so if you believe then you'll also obey. If you don't obey then you don't believe because when you believe who Jesus is and what he did, do you know what your life is going to be spent doing? Obeying him. Yes, you won't do it perfectly but do you know what you have? You have a priest who deals kindly and graciously with you. He's strong and kind. He's gentle and lowly. He is coming to you and saying... *I know. Come to me and I'll fix it. I'll set you back right...* That is who Jesus is. See, they loved a priest. They need to love a better priest whose name is the Lord Jesus Christ.

See, I learned this week that I actually do need a priest. Do you know who the priest is that I need? It's Jesus Christ. That's who I need. That's who you need.

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