

“A Gift That Keeps Getting Better”

Hebrews 7:23-25

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Introduction: One of the things I have learned in life is that when I ask the right question I usually get the answer. The video this morning asked the right question: “What do you need for Christmas?” Not what do you want for Christmas, but what do you need. That is the right question.

The answer to that question is that you need a gift that keep getting better, and only one gift does that. And that gift is Jesus. Our Scripture text explains why this is true.

Text: Hebrews 7:23-25

Background to understand:

1. Many Jewish people had become believers in Jesus and were being persecuted by other countrymen.
2. Some felt pressure to go back to their Jewish faith to escape suffering for their faith in Christ.
3. The writer of Hebrew encouraged them to hold fast to their confession (4:14), and to “go on to perfection” (6:1).

Before we look at our text in Hebrews, let’s be sure we understand what the Bible says in Romans 6:23. The Bible says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

- We are not born with eternal life.
- We do not deserve eternal life.
- We can’t inherit eternal life.
- We can’t buy eternal life.
- Eternal life is a gift that you can only accept or reject.

- Once you accept eternal life, you soon discover that it keeps getting better and better.
- Why is this true? Our text in Hebrews answers that question.

Text: Hebrews 7:23-25

1. Salvation is a gift that keeps getting better because salvation is a gift that you cannot lose.

- Notice in verse twenty-three that the Bible says, “There were many priests.”
- There were eighty-four High Priest in the history of Israel and numberless lesser priest.
- The priesthood was limited to one tribe (Levi) and only one family in the tribe—the family of Aaron.
- The priesthood would change hands because of death (v. 23b).
- Verse twenty-four tells us that Jesus’ priesthood was different.
- Jesus always lives (v.25).
- Because Jesus always lives, He is able to save to the “uttermost” (v.25).
- The word “uttermost” means “completely” or “forever.”
- The Amplified Bible says, “Completely, perfectly, finally, and for all time and eternity.”

Application: Your salvation is a gift that keeps getting better because you cannot lose it. You can lose your intimacy with God, but you cannot lose your relationship with God.

Illustration: The Bible calls it the eternal security of the believer. It is one of the great doctrines in the Bible. Baptist call it “once saved always saved.” The problem is that many Baptist have either misunderstood what the Bible teaches about the eternal security of the believer or they have cheapened it. Let me explain. (To hear this explanation listen to the sermon on the church web page.)

Illustration: When you are saved, you can sin all you want to. When you are saved, you won’t want to sin. You will still sin, but you will not want to sin.

T.S. Salvation is a gift that keeps getting better because you can’t lose it, but not only that...

2. Salvation is a gift that keeps getting better because Jesus died to save you and He lives to pray for you.

- We emphasize the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus, but we need to also emphasize the intercession of Jesus.
- Jesus died down here to save us, but He lives up there to pray for us.

Application: You have a living Christ. Right this very moment Jesus is at the right hand of God the Father praying for you. Think what this means to you.

1. You are not alone.
2. Whatever problems you have Jesus is praying for them.

Conclusion: This is the month we celebrate the birth of Jesus. As we celebrate His birth, we remember what He did. He died to pay your sin debt. We also need to remember what Jesus is doing. He is at the right hand of the Father praying for you.

Invitation: For some of you, Jesus is praying that today you will be saved. For some of you, Jesus is praying that today some of you will get serious about God and the things of God.