

**Hebrews**



**Promises  
Faithfully  
Kept**

# Hebrews 7.20-28 (CSB)

## The Unique Priestly Ministry of Christ

For those who would know God, there comes a point in which you must recognize that you have not known God. You have sinned and fallen short of his glory. You must realize you have been spiritually dead and can only be made alive by God's grace. So you realize that you must cry out to Him for this salvation. And doing so will force you to change your entire life orientation from yourself and what you can do to God and what He has done.

To enter into salvation, there is no magic formula that you recite. There is no 12-step process that you can apply to make yourself come to life with God. There is no amount of good you can do to impress God. The only avenue God approves is looking to His Son by faith.

That truth has not changed. There is no greater revelation that has come or coming. There have been many counterfeits claiming to honor Jesus while denying His very work, words, and person. Sin that puts people to death also convinces them over and over that either they don't need life, that there is no such thing as life and death, or that they are good enough to earn eternal life.

Today's passage tells us that there is no way to have life with God apart from the ministry of Christ Jesus and that we have this life through him alone by God's grace alone by faith alone. We cannot accept any false imitation or counterfeit. And if we find life in Him, we find life forever, in wholeness, and we can rest in His salvation with complete confidence.

**20 None of this happened  
without an oath. For others  
became priests without an oath,**

**21 but he became a priest with  
an oath made by the one who  
said to him:**

**The Lord has sworn  
and will not change his mind,  
“You are a priest forever.”**

**22 Because of this oath, Jesus  
has also become the guarantee  
of a better covenant.**

**23 Now many have become  
Levitical priests, since they are  
prevented by death from  
remaining in office.**

**24 But because he remains  
forever, he holds his priesthood  
permanently.**

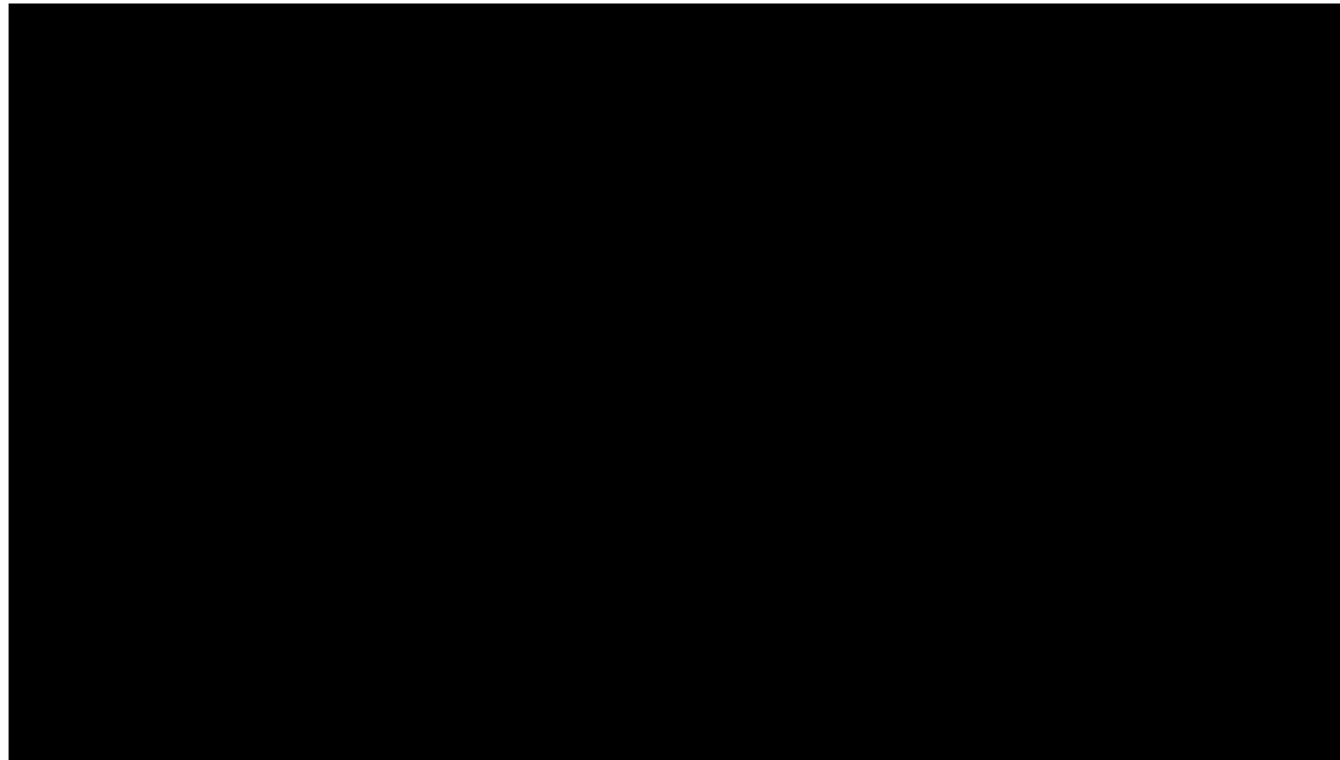
**25 Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, since he always lives to intercede for them.**



**26 For this is the kind of high priest we need: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.**

**27 He doesn't need to offer sacrifices every day, as high priests do—first for their own sins, then for those of the people. He did this once for all time when he offered himself.**

**28 For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak, but the promise of the oath, which came after the law, appoints a Son, who has been perfected forever.**



Pray

God to glorify Himself by exalting Christ before us today.

Bring truths to bear to full consistency

Set hearts on heavenly home in Christ

Forgive us when we presume upon your grace by falling back into patterns of self righteousness

Bring your salvation to the lost and deceived

Bless us in having us re-catch the vision of being on mission

Bless the churches around us seeking to bring the gospel to Henrico and Richmond

Set aside what might distract us and let us enjoy the beauty and goodness of Christ ministry on our behalf today.

## Jesus is God's guarantee of eternal salvation (vv. 20–22).

1) Jesus is God's guarantee of eternal salvation (vv. 20–22).

Last week, we listened to Hebrews 7:1–19, as the author of Hebrews used Melchizedek literarily to help us understand the deep theological reality of the Son of God who took on flesh, being fully God and fully man SO THAT we might see that Jesus was always God's intended priest for us.

Most of us are not familiar with the idea of having a priest go between us and God on our behalf. There is no person other than Jesus who can serve as our priest. The New Testament does testify to the priesthood of all believers, as we are able to come to God directly by means of Christ and are to represent God to the world, calling the world to come to know this same God. But we do not accomplish salvation for others. Christ Jesus alone has accomplished salvation. There is no other way. Jesus told his disciples in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father except by me."

The author of Hebrews is telling us that according to Ps. 110:4, God was saying a millennium before Jesus's birth that the Messiah would be the only mediator between God and man forever.

God made a claim that Jesus was going to fulfill.

The word guarantee or guarantor comes from the language of agreements. We know of guarantors as those who sign along with the person seeking to make a contract or covenant. When some young adults purchase their first car or home, sometimes their parents sign on as guarantors guaranteeing that payment will be made.

In our elder meetings we love praying for the church, discerning the vision for the church, and planning on how to minister to and lead the church. AND we have a good time doing so. We value the brotherhood and community that we have in Christ, and so that includes laughter and teasing in love. There have been several times that someone has referenced Justin Wilson, the cajun cook, after I say something.



Justin Wilson was known for saying, “I guarantee you’re gonna love it.”

God promised that He would provide salvation eternally by means of the Messiah alone. Jesus is both the guarantee and guarantor of that promise. His life was offered up as the guarantee, and He still is the guarantee by means of his resurrection, by means of his indestructible life. And as the one who made the offering, he is the guarantor.

God said it, God did it. We don’t ever have to worry about God defaulting on his claim. Jesus is forever the guarantee of salvation. There is no other way.

**The salvation that Jesus  
provides is permanent. (vv. 23–  
24)**

2) We've already stepped back in tv history with Justin Wilson's cooking show. Let's move forward a few years to a movie about growing up around a baseball diamond and friends.



There was this movie called Sandlot that came out in 1993. The boys make constant brags and mistakes and have to learn from them. One boy in particular probably made bigger claims than any other player on the team. His name was Squints Palladorous, and he liked to call his shot like the Babe. He wooed the local lifeguard and eventually owned the local pharmacy. He was also the team's unofficial historian on the local junkyard, since his grandfather, Squidman Palledorous, was involved in an incident as the chief of police. The punchline to Squints's story is that whatever went into the junkyard went missing FOREVER.

As it turns out, Squints was doing what many a young boy does in the preteen and early teen years. He took a nugget of truth and exaggerated it so that he might impress others around him. The rest of the team had believed his story and based on their attempts to retrieve a prized baseball on his exaggerated tales.

So, Squints was wrong about the junkyard and his claim about FOREVER.

If you live long enough in this world, you will get promised the moon and get sold moondust. And so we start trying to protect ourselves and build walls, expecting to be disappointed.



## **The salvation that Jesus provides is permanent. (vv. 23–24)**

But Jesus is not some little boy trying to sound impressive to his friends. He is God and the holy innocent lamb of God who suffered for our sins in order to put sin and death to death. He was crucified and killed but rose again to new life that cannot be ended. His version of FOREVER is based on His own resurrection and divine nature. Sometimes when people reference forever, what they mean is as long as these circumstances last or these stipulations are met. Because Jesus is God and is the firstfruits of resurrected life, his version of FOREVER really means FOREVER.

There were many Levitical priests that had served in the Temple, including the high priests who alone could enter the holy of holies. But they kept dying. Jesus's death was his offering and his resurrection and ascension are proof that he will always keep his priesthood for us before the very heavenly presence of God permanently. His priestly mediation of salvation for you is permanent.

So, are you permanently confident in your salvation?

If you waver in confidence in salvation, are you trusting in Christ Jesus or yourself?

If your confidence for salvation is in anyone but Jesus or Jesus plus anything else, you should want your confidence to waver. You should not place your hope for salvation in a Squintz-like self-boast or a Paladorous-like religion.

Because sin has affected every aspect of mankind, we can even deceive ourselves into believing we are the good ones and God needs to get on board or get left behind. We can buy into the lie that we are somehow able to attain salvation by our best efforts or even dismiss the reality of God by our denial of Him.

Depravity reaches every part of our being and so we need a Savior who saves completely.

## The salvation that Jesus provides is complete. (v. 25)

3) The salvation that Jesus provides is complete. (v. 25)

People made good in the image of God have been corrupted by sin in every area of their lives. Please understand, I'm not talking about a few people born into this world or even a large percentage of people born into this world. Every mere mortal being born into this world has been affected by Adam's sin.

It is not just that people are depraved and therefore seek to suppress the knowledge of God's existence. Sin has affected our mind, body, and affections. Sinners love sin.

I've been reading through the first part of Jeremiah over the past few days. There are some statements God has made about people's commitment to sin that are astounding. As I read these passages to you, remember that these particular people Jeremiah references were in the old covenant and did not have hearts made new. They were supposed to be the people of God but did not trust God.

Jeremiah 5:21-31

Hear this,

you foolish and senseless people.

They have eyes, but they don't see.

They have ears, but they don't hear.

22 Do you not fear me?

This is the Lord's declaration.

Do you not tremble before me,

the one who set the sand as the boundary of the sea,

an enduring barrier that it cannot cross?

The waves surge, but they cannot prevail.

They roar but cannot pass over it.

23 But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts.

They have turned aside and have gone away.

24 They have not said to themselves,

‘Let’s fear the Lord our God,

who gives the seasonal rains, both autumn and spring,

who guarantees to us the fixed weeks of the harvest.’

25 Your guilty acts have diverted these things from you.

Your sins have withheld my bounty from you,

26 for wicked men live among my people.

They watch like hunters lying in wait.

They set a trap;

they catch men.

27 Like a cage full of birds,

so their houses are full of deceit.

Therefore they have grown powerful and rich.

28 They have become fat and sleek.

They have also excelled in evil matters.

They have not taken up cases,

such as the case of the fatherless, so they might prosper,

and they have not defended the rights of the needy.

29 Should I not punish them for these things?

This is the Lord’s declaration.

Should I not avenge myself

on such a nation as this?

30 “An appalling, horrible thing

has taken place in the land.

31 The prophets prophesy falsely,

and the priests rule by their own authority.

My people love it like this.

But what will you do at the end of it?

Again in Jeremiah 8:6

I have paid careful attention.

They do not speak what is right.

No one regrets his evil,

asking, ‘What have I done?’

And a more well-known declaration of man’s depravity:

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all else and beyond cure—who can understand it?

But now Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy... No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found.

Where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more (Rom. 5:20) Whereas sin has affected all aspects of people, God's grace saves completely. It is not just that we are separated from sin. His salvation makes us new and whole.

I once had a friend ask, "On what basis are we to be confident men won't sin when in heaven? And you can't just say Jesus."

But Jesus and the nature of the salvation He brings is the reason we can hold to such truth. His new covenant sanctifies completely. We may not experience it in fullness now, but we will when Christ returns and the dead in Christ will raise and the church living at the time will as well and We ALL will be changed to in our bodies to be like the resurrected King's body.

This salvation and newness is only for those who enter into God's presence by means of His grace through faith in Christ now, prior to death or Christ's return. Jesus alone is able to intercede for us in this way.

**The salvation that Jesus  
provides is final and sufficient.  
(vv. 26–28)**

4) The salvation that Jesus provides is sufficiently final. (vv. 26–28)

We needed a mediator between us and God who could properly bridge the gap between the holy God and sinful man and be salvation for us.

[Cross image]

We needed a mediator who fit the following descriptions:

holy, innocent (or without deceit), undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

We needed someone like us or else he couldn't be a mediator. But we also need someone so unlike us in terms of sin and righteousness. Salvation for those who know Christ is not just something of the past, it is forever as we said earlier.

We need a priest who is perfect in every way, who will remain that way forever, and who does not need to make another sacrifice again ever!

There is this phrase in English, "once and for all," that appears in v. 27. That reference to once and for all is talking about an event that has occurred once and will not occur again.

Jesus has offered his life and obedience as sacrifice to the Father.

The author of Hebrews is letting us know the ascension of Christ Jesus to the right hand of the Father is an essential part of the gospel. Jesus died for our sins, rose again on the third day, met with the disciples, many of them, and then ascended to the right hand of the Father, where he offered all of this obedience to the Father, and the Father accepted all of it, giving the Spirit to the church to show that the offering was accepted.

When v. 26 says he is separated from sinners, it is referring to a permanent ongoing state. There is no sin or sinner allowed to come into the holy presence of God, where Christ is seated. His work is done. The high priest of the old covenant could only sit once he left the Temple. But Christ Jesus sits upon His throne with His work finished

once and for all time. There is no greater offering that could be made and nothing less would have been sufficient.

There is nothing that you can ever add to the good news for your salvation. If you try to add anything to Jesus for your salvation, that is not the gospel and therefore not the way to salvation. If you try to add anything to Jesus's once and for all time and never to be repeated sacrifice, you are declaring His sacrifice to be insufficient.

To whom or what have you been looking to for hope and relationship with God?

There is no other way but to trust in Christ.

He alone is the way of salvation. He alone is the true and full revelation of God. He alone brings us eternal life.

Will you look to him today?

