

Hebrews 7.11

If perfection...

We have been considering the superiority of Christ over Levi in the matter of the tithe paid by Abraham to Melchizedek. The tithe is just a proof in the greater context. The real issue is the superiority of Christ in all things over the Priesthood of Levi and the inadequacy of the OT priesthood to actually bring anyone into a right relationship with God... We need to think about just what the aim of God is and was, and then use that platform to begin to understand just how glorious is the cross that removed the record of our wrongs and restored us to God once and for all!

I. GOAL OF PERFECTION

The goal is perfection in the sight of God

A. Perfectly accepted –

Ephesians 3.1-6

B. Perfectly sanctified -

1 Corinthians 6:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Hebrews 2:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Hebrews 10.5-10,14

C. Perfectly conformed

Romans 8.28-30

D. Perfectly consummated unto God's purposes and desires

Galatians 5.24-25

II. INADEQUATE PRIESTHOOD

The old priesthood could not do this

A. No flesh perfected by the law –

Romans 3:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

B. The continual sacrifice proves

C. The blood of bulls and goats can never take away sin –

Hebrews 10: 1-4

III. UNDERSTAND THE AIM

The aim of the old was not this

A. They were a type

B. They aimed toward, enacting their work by the faith that God would keep His promise

C. They taught of the need of Christ for they continually had to renew their work

D. They were a governorship, a tutor to teach us of our need for Christ

Galatians 3.24-25

IV. GOD DOES NOT LIE

If Levi is the final - then God has either lied or failed

- A. Any priesthood which cannot complete the sanctification of its people is false
- B. Either God never intended to sanctify us
- C. Or the work must be done by some other manner - not by a priesthood
- D. This makes all religion a vain falsehood
- E. And makes God utterly false to His people.

V. TRUE PRIESTHOOD

Only the true priesthood can accomplish the goal of perfection

- A. We aim to be perfected in this life
 - 1. We understand the truth of God –

1Corinthians 2:6 (NKJV)

⁶ However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

2. Jesus prayed that we would be perfect –

John 17:23 (NKJV)

²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

3. We grow and increase aiming to be like Christ unto a perfect man

Ephesians 4:13 (NKJV)

¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

4. We grow in the knowledge of God and Christ that we would be presented perfect –

Colossians 1:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

5. For We are COMPLETE in Him –

Colossians 2:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

6. But not yet, while we still live here in the flesh, sin still remains to some degree –

Philippians 3:12 (NKJV)

¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

B. In our final state we will be perfected

1. Absolute perfection will come in eternity -

Hebrews 12:23 (NKJV)

²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

1 Corinthians 13:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

C. In this life we are counted as perfected in Christ

1. Justified in Him –

2Corinthians 5.21

D. But still sin remains

Romans 7.15-24

However, there is a perfection that is given to us as blessing from the Lord. A gift bag, if you will that blesses us and grants us favor and secures our hope even in the midst of this fallen world and the reign of this present darkness. These blessings are ours in

Christ, given to us by His Spirit as a down payment on our final inheritance of perfection. They transform our worship and give us a full measure of all the good things that are ours in Christ when we rest in His finished work... we will unpack this idea and the fullness of these blessings next week, but by way of teaser and sample here is a partial list

1. Righteousness - granted the full righteousness of God
2. Peace - given the peace that passes all understanding
3. Light and knowledge - we have the mind of Christ
4. Liberty - approaching the throne of God boldly
5. Joy - unbounded and without anchor to our circumstances in this world
6. Absolute confidence that we ARE accepted in the beloved...
7. And of course all of these blessings overflow into our worship and transform us even more into the likeness of Christ as we worship Him in the beauty of holiness.