

Hebrews 4:14-16

Our True Confession

Last week we thought together about our great High Priest. We asserted that we must hold fast to our confession (and we will consider that command in depth next week) - that confession is the root and the core of our lives, but before we **can** hold fast, we have to have some understanding of just what it is that we are holding fast to... If Jesus is our Great High Priest, as we considered last week then our confession revolves around Him; His person, His work and His promise... we absolutely **MUST** understand the truth of just what that is, or we are adrift in a sea of ruin... a never-ending kaleidoscope of half-truths, whole-lies and broken hopes... for a Jesus who is other than He is given in the Bible, is a Jesus who is **LESS**; and a lesser Jesus cannot save anyone, for a lesser Jesus would Himself need saving.

The writer of Hebrews sums up the whole of Biblical Christology here in a short, tightly packed phrase. He has passed through the heavens - there is a whole lot

wrapped up in this simple expression, and it is vital that we understand just what is being said here.

I. LIVED HERE -

a. Cannot be denied that Jesus came in the flesh -

1 John 4.1-3

b. Perfect life –

Romans 8.1-8

c. Full obedience to the law of God –

Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

II. DIED TO PAY FOR SIN –

Romans 3.25 says that God put Jesus forth as a **propitiation**, a ransom, a price paid to appease the wrath of an angry God...

Hebrews 2:17 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

And perhaps the single most important idea behind Biblical Atonement, or propitiation is this:

1 John 4:10 (NKJV)

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Although the idea behind propitiation is the appeasing of an angry God, the wonder of the Biblical truth is that it is God Himself who is appeasing His wrath, and the motive behind that greatest of works is the love that He bears for His own people. A people that He has chosen for Himself before the foundations of creation.

a. Substitute –

Isaiah 53.4-12

Romans 5.6-8

b. Guiltless –

Hebrews 7.26-28

c. Particularly –

John 10.11 – 16

d. Satisfaction of wrath –

Romans 5.9-11

e. Atonement –

In some ways this word is a synonym for propitiation, but it has its own nuance. The idea is that the guilt itself has been covered over or removed. Not only the wrath that hangs over us, but the NEED for that wrath...

Leviticus 17.11

Hebrews 10.11

Hebrews 9.11-12

f. Successful –

Acts 20.28,

Hebrews 9.13-14

g. Willing -

John 10.17

h. Favor of God –

Ephesians 1.3-6

III. THEN WAS RAISED

a. Evidence of justification –

Romans 4.23-25

b. Confirmation of everything He said and did while here –

Matthew 17.5-8

c. Vindication of His righteousness –

Acts 17.29 – 31

d. Vindication of God's righteousness –

Romans 3.23-26

IV. THEN ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN –

Acts 1.9-11

a. Is now seated at the right hand of the Father

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Ephesians 1.15-23

Hebrews 8.1-6

Acts 7.54-56

b. Where He lives always to make intercession for us –

Romans 8:34 (NKJV)

34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

c. He is the ONLY intercessor - (recap from last week)

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV)

5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

e. Where He awaits the day of His own return –

Mark 13.32 – 33

i. For His bride –

Revelation 19.6-9

ii. For judgment of the world –

Acts 17.30-31

2 Corinthians 5.9-11

Revelation 22. 1-5

iii. To establish His eternal reign forever –

1 Corinthians 15.22-28

Revelation 11.15

Therefore, let us hold fast to our confession. Do not waver, do not retreat, do not allow anyone to turn you aside from the pure knowledge and confession of Jesus Christ as the ONLY means for us to find favor with God and to have access to His grace and glory.