

**The 1689 Confession; Chapter 8, Paragraph's 4 & 8 – “Of Christ the Mediator”,
Message # 21– “We have Hope as an Anchor”, Presented in the Adult Sunday
School Class, by Pastor Paul Rendall on May 17th, 2020.**

Paragraph 4 – This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake, which that he might discharge he was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfil it, and underwent the punishment due to us, which we should have borne and suffered, being made sin and a curse for us; enduring most grievous sorrows in his soul, and most painful sufferings in his body; was crucified, and died, and remained in the state of the dead, yet saw no corruption: on the third day he arose from the dead with the same body in which he suffered, with which he also ascended into heaven, and there sitteth at the right hand of his Father making intercession, and shall return to judge men and angels at the end of the world.

Paragraph 8 - To all those for whom Christ hath obtained eternal redemption, he doth certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same, making intercession for them; uniting them to himself by his Spirit, revealing unto them, in and by his Word, the mystery of salvation, persuading them to believe and obey, governing their hearts by his Word and Spirit, and overcoming all their enemies by his almighty power and wisdom, in such manner and ways as are most consonant to his wonderful and unsearchable dispensation; and all of free and absolute grace, without any condition foreseen in them to procure it.

In Review – Let me read for you Hebrews 9: 15 – “And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”

We have examined a good many aspects of Christ's being the only Mediator between God and men, and the Mediator of a new covenant. We have been looking together, in some depth, into many of the descriptions of Christ's High Priestly ministry by looking back into Old Testament times, at those men and objects related to the Old Covenant worship of God; Aaron, the high priest, and his holy garments, the tabernacle and how it typified Christ and heaven itself, the altar and the offerings which were typical of Christ and His sacrificial offering of Himself for sinners at the cross. We have seen that when Christ died there on the cross, He fulfilled all of these types, in regard to both the ceremonial and moral law of God. He was raised from the dead and He ascended into heaven, which was, and is, the greater and more perfect tabernacle. And He now sits at the right hand of the Father. From this vantage point, He ever lives to make intercession for us. He is a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

It is this aspect of His High Priestly ministry that we want to think about at this hour; that is, His Intercession. What does it mean for us, as believers that Christ is presently interceding for us? Well, we have looked at Aaron as a high priest who himself needed the cleansing of the blood of Christ. This was typified by the blood of the lamb which he offered once a year in the holy of holies; not only for the sins of the people, but for his own sins. We saw that this ceremony did not, of itself, cleanse either Aaron or the people of God of itself, but as it was offered in faith, looking forward to Christ's offering of Himself once for all, as a propitiation, a wrath satisfying and wrath removing sacrifice, for those sinners who would become saints during Old Covenant, Old Testament times.

In other words, the Old Covenant ritual and ceremonial cleansing was not in itself actually able to cleanse anyone who had committed transgression under the first covenant. But those who were called of God, and chosen by Him, unto salvation in Christ, they would receive by faith, the promise of the eternal inheritance in Christ. Now, what we want to see, proceeding from this forgiveness of sins and cleansing by the blood of Christ, is the idea that, in the life of every

believer, both Old Testament and New, there was, and there still is, a great need for Christ to intercede for them really and actually as they go through their life following conversion. Yes, it is true that by faith all of their sins are forgiven and placed under the blood of Christ. Yes, it is a spiritual reality that they have been justified by His grace and sanctified once for all through the body of Jesus Christ. But I want to present to you the scriptural truth that what Christ has accomplished by His once for all offering of Himself on the cross to redeem them, is then really and actually applied after their conversion, to their times of temptation, and to their being cleansed from all and every sin when it is committed by them. And Christ also, then, actually deals with the fallout from that sin in terms of the accusations of Satan and the on-going future usefulness of the believer in the sight of God.

1st – I want to speak to you about the Oath which God has sworn concerning Christ’s High Priestly Office and Intercession.

Hebrews 7: 14-25 – “For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.” And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: ‘YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.’ For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT RELENT, 'YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK' "), by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 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.

So these verses speak to us of our Lord’s unique qualifications for being the one and only Mediator between God and men. He was not of the tribe of Levi, but rather of the order of Melchizedek. Melchizedek was a type of this. As it says in verse 4 of chapter 7 – “Consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tithe of the spoils.” He was given a tithe by Abraham because he was typical of Christ in the greatness of his person and his priesthood. In verse 3 it says that he was without father and mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.” Very mysterious, isn’t it? But the type was just a man. But he was a fit type, because of the very simple way he interceded for Abraham, who is the father of all believers, both Jew and Gentile.

Melchizedek’s mysterious greatness, of no one knowing where he came from, or who he was descended from, or hardly anything about even the nature of his priesthood; in these things, he faithfully represented the Lord Jesus as a prefiguring type, in terms of his pointing to Christ’s having no beginning of days or end of life; His having existed from all eternity in the bosom of the Father, and His coming into the world as the one who would make peace between God and Man. Melchizedek mysteriously shows up on the scene after Abraham won the battle with the kings. And after Abraham had returned from this battle, bringing back Lot and all the goods and all the people who had been taken captive by the kings he defeated, Melchizedek showed up with

bread and wine, and blessed Abraham saying – “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Abraham would be possessor of heaven and earth and all things through Christ. God Most High would send the Lord Jesus Christ into the world as the Great High Priest of our faith, and He would, and will, as the King of kings and Lord of lords, conquer all the enemies of the Church; deliver them into their hands, overcome the antichristian kings and nations, and establish His righteous rule, spiritually upon the earth. Melchizedek was showing forth Christ’s intercession to Abraham and Lot and everyone there that day. The Lion of the tribe of Judah would do all of this through His High Priestly intercession through His victory on the cross, His being raised from the dead, and His ascending to heaven, and His taking His place at the right hand of the father, for us. The law made nothing perfect, but Christ in fulfilling it, brought in a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

It was because Christ was made High Priest with an oath that He would most certainly accomplish redemption as our surety, and be able to apply that redemption in His intercession for us on an ongoing day by day basis. Because the Lord Jesus is alive forevermore, He the outstanding on-going witness to God the Father and God the Spirit that God’s law and His righteousness were perfectly fulfilled and satisfied in an eternal sense, in what Christ did for us.

2. God’s oath brings everyone trusting in Christ eternal ongoing hope as an anchor in living their life to God.

Hebrews 6: 13-20 – “For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, ‘SURELY BLESSING I WILL BLESS YOU, AND MULTIPLYING I WILL MULTIPLY YOU.’ “And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.” “For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.” “Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.” “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

Here we have the unconditional promise given here to Abraham; that because of His eternal purpose in Christ, that He would most surely bless Abraham and make Him the father of many nations, the father of the Jews, and the one who by faith alone in what God would do for him, he would inherit all things. You will recall, however, that the fulfillment of the promise was many years in the making. But notice the wording here – “Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath. This was God the Father swearing by the unchangeableness of His purpose in the counsel of redemption, together with God the Son, that He would fulfill all of that good purpose. The two immutable things being mentioned here are God’s eternal purpose and His oath. An oath is a sworn promise. And God who cannot lie, by this means, has established the certainty of all the blessings of salvation coming to Abraham and to all who believe in Christ with saving faith, which also is a grace of God purchased for them by Christ.

You must really believe in the promises of God in relation to your salvation and the outworking of it, but God has so planned your salvation, and will so bring these things to pass in your life that you might have strong consolation. Now, this is something that you, as one of God's saints, stand in great need of every day, as You walk with Christ through this life. Why? Because whether you know it or not, you are fighting a spiritual battle with the Devil, and you are every day declaring by your thoughts and your actions, to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places that Christ is your strength, and your song, and your salvation. You are going to get buffeted by Satan in relation to the strength or weakness of your faith, you will find that you will be in a spiritual storm, as it were, and that you need an anchor for your soul.

Your anchor is your sure hope in what Christ has already done for you by His death on the cross for your sins, and His resurrection from the dead which has given you spiritual life, as He has applied to You through the working of the Holy Spirit in raising you from your death in trespasses and sins, and His day by day working in your heart to change and transform you into a person who can glorify Him by the way that you live your life. But I want you to see from these verses that we are studying, that you have an anchor which is both sure and steadfast and which enters the Presence behind the veil. Your hope in Christ allows you to enter the Presence behind the veil where Christ is in heaven, to be able by faith to see what is going on, in Christ's interceding for you. And this is intended to give you a great and sure hope that all shall be accomplished concerning you in relation to your being completely saved and delivered from the Devil's power. We find a vision of this in –

Zechariah 3: 1-10 – “Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.” “And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan!” “The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?” “Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.” “Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, “Take away the filthy garments from him.” “And to him He said, “See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.” “And I said, ‘Let them put a clean turban on his head.’” So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him.” “And the Angel of the LORD stood by.” “Then the Angel of the LORD admonished Joshua, saying, “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘If you will walk in My ways, and if you will keep My command, then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk among these who stand here.’” “Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and your companions who sit before you, for they are a wondrous sign; for behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.” “For behold, the stone That I have laid before Joshua: Upon the stone are seven eyes.” “Behold, I will engrave its inscription, says the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.” “In that day, says the LORD of hosts, ‘Everyone will invite his neighbor under his vine and under his fig tree.’”

I will open these verse up more in my next session on Intercession. Suffice it to say at this point, that Christ's Intercession for His people is wonderfully pictured here. It is a picture intended to bring you strong consolation, dear Christian, of Christ's faithfulness and watchcare toward you even to give you help and aid against Satan when you have failed Him in the worst way, and yet you still desire to become more holy and have real purity of heart. More on this in the next session.

