

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: JESUS IS OUR MINISTER
HEBREWS 8:1-6

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus is on our side and is always there to help us when we are struggling. (Heb. 13.22)
2. To help these Christians remain faithful, the inspired writer presents Jesus as our High Priest. (Heb. 8.1)
3. Hebrews 8 characterizes Jesus in two ways: He is our Minister (Heb. 8.1-6), and our Mediator (Heb. 8.7-13).

I. INTRODUCING THE CHAPTER

- A. **HEBREWS 8.1:** *“Now this is the main point”*
1. “Main point” (kephalaion): Literally, the principle.
Used of financial terms such as an initial bank deposit.
 2. What is the main point of the book of Hebrews? *“We have such a High Priest”* (Heb. 8.1)
- B. In context, Jesus is presented as our Minister. (Heb. 8.1-6)
1. **HEBREWS 8.2:** *“a Minister of the sanctuary”*
 2. Minister (leitourgos): A public servant.

II. JESUS IS OUR MINISTER

- A. Jesus has a place.
1. **HEBREWS 8.1:** *“seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.”*
 2. Five times in the book of Hebrews, the place that Jesus occupies is mentioned. (Heb. 1.3,13; 8.1; 10.12; 12.2)
- B. Jesus has a position.
1. **HEBREWS 8.2:** *“a Minister of the sanctuary”*
 2. He ministers to us as we minister to Him. (1 Cor. 4.1)
- C. Jesus has a purpose.
1. **HEBREWS 8.3:** *“For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices.”* Jesus offers Himself
 2. **HEBREWS 8.4:** *“For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest...”* Jesus is not living on earth under the Law.
 3. **HEBREWS 8.5:** *“who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things”* The Old Law represented something else.
 4. **HEBREWS 8.6:** *“But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry...”* The new system is better.

CONCLUSION: Seeing Jesus as our Minister helps us to better appreciate Him and our relationship with God through Him.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

February 14, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

THE HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY

In the third century, the Roman Emperor Claudius II believed that single men made better soldiers than men who were married and had families. He therefore outlawed the marriage of young men.

According to popular belief, Saint Valentine, a Roman Catholic Priest, defied the decree by the Roman emperor and married young couples in secret. This was discovered, and on February 14, 296, Claudius II had Valentine put to death on.

Valentine fell in love with a woman who was imprisoned with him. On the day of his death, he wrote her a letter and signed it, “Your Valentine.” Two hundred years later in the year 496, Pope Gelasius established that February 14th would be the day to honor and remember St. Valentine.

It wasn't until the 14th century that Valentine's Day began to be associated with romantic love. And it wasn't until the 18th century when this day began to be celebrated by sending flowers and chocolates to their romantic partners.

What does all of this mean to us? From the very beginning of creation, God established marriage. We are people who are designed for companionship (Gen. 2.18). As husbands and wives celebrate their love for one another, it is important to remember that our spouse should be honored and treated as special all year around (Eph. 5.22-33; 1 Pet. 3.1-7).

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THE CHURCH THAT BELONGS TO CHRIST

2 PETER 2:9

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is a great deal of confusion and frustration in reference to the Bible concept of the Lord's church.
2. Are we the only ones going to heaven? Two extreme answers:
 - a) We answer in a way that is harsh instead of touching hearts.
 - b) We answer in a way that is evasive and compromise truth.
3. The Bible tells us about the church and how to be a part of it.

I. THE BIBLE CONCEPT OF THE CHURCH

- A. The church of the Bible is exclusive. (2 Pet. 2.9)
 1. "A chosen people" Literally spoken out of the world.
 2. "A royal priesthood." Priests were exclusive.
 3. "A holy nation" Literally, separated. (cf. Rev. 4.8)
 4. "His own special people." Unique from everyone else.
- B. The church in the Bible is described in many different ways.
 1. It is a kingdom. (Matt. 16.18,19; Col. 1.13)
 2. It is a flock of sheep. (Acts 20.28; 1 Pet. 5.2)
 3. It is a body. (Eph. 1.22,23; 4.12)
 4. It is a household. (1 Tim. 3.15)
 5. It is a possession. (1 Cor. 1.2; Rom. 16.16)
- C. The church of the Bible is singular.
 1. There is "one body." (Eph. 4.4-6)
 2. That one body is the church. (Eph. 1.22,23)
- D. The church of the Bible has exclusive blessings.
 1. Spiritual blessings are only in Christ. (Eph. 1.3)
 2. Those who are in Christ are of the church. (1 Cor. 1.2)
 3. The spiritual blessings we enjoy. (Eph. 1.4-7)
- E. The church of the Bible is not composed of all the religious. (Matt. 7.21-23; Acts 10.1,2,43; 17.22,30; Rom. 10.1-3)

II. HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF HIS CHURCH?

- A. Who are the members of the church of the Bible?
 1. **1 PETER 2.9:** Reference is made to His people.
 2. **1 PETER 2.9:** His people are those who obtained mercy.
- B. How do I obtain mercy and become a member of His church? (Acts 10.43; 5.31; 22.16; Rom. 10.10; Acts 2.41,47)

CONCLUSION: Are you a member of His church?

"YOU THINK YOU ARE THE ONLY CHURCH"

The statement that titles this article is often posed by those outside of the "church of Christ." Sometimes it is put in the form of a question. "Do you think you are the only ones going to heaven?" Usually such a question is accompanied with accusations of arrogance. Those who claim that we believe we are the only church that is saved also claim that we are arrogant in our beliefs. How do we respond to such a question? Are their accusations legitimate?

First and foremost, it is important to answer with a proper attitude. Christians are to "*have this mind which was also in Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 2.5). However we answer, it should never be with an "us vs. them" mentality. It should never be with the intention of proving we are right, and they are wrong. Our answer must be with a mindset of helping others with their relationship with God. Our concern is for their soul. Our response should be carefully chosen to open an honest discussion about salvation. It must always be rooted in the teachings of Scripture, since it only the gospel that is "*the power of God to salvation*" (Rom. 1.16).

Second, it is important to understand the question or accusation itself. Most of the religious world sees the church as a collection of different denominations. The "church of Christ" is viewed as one of many denominations that exist. From that perspective, it is arrogant for one denomination out of many to claim to be the only one going to heaven. It is our responsibility to help them understand the Bible concept of the church.

We believe that the only ones who are going to heaven are those who belong to Christ. Jesus is the only path to heaven (John 14.6). It is only in Christ that forgiveness of sins is found (Eph. 1.7). The only ones who are saved are those who are part of His church (Eph. 5.23). It then becomes a matter of spending time with the Bible to understand how one becomes a follower of Christ, how to identify His church, and how one is made a part of His church.

By showing patience, humility, and love in our approach, we can touch the hearts of others for Jesus. Yet there will be those who remain hostile, accusatory, and refuse to accept what the Bible says. In those cases, it is good to remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 5.11,12: "*Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*"

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