

## **Bible Study for March 15-21, 2021**

**Read:** Hebrews 5:5-10

### **Notes:**

Not a lot is known about the background to the book of Hebrews. Who wrote it, and when exactly it was written are still a bit of a mystery. We do know however, who it was written to; Jewish Christian believers who were suffering persecution for their faith to the point that they were tempted to abandon Christianity. Hebrews then, is a letter of encouragement for believers to hold on, to persevere in spite of their circumstances.

The author does this by showing the reader that the New Covenant in Christ is so superior to the Old Covenant that to fall away from Christ should be unthinkable. Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament in today's lesson, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation; to be trusted in all our experiences in life.

In these verses we are twice given the name of Melchizedek who was a priest of God from Genesis 14. In that chapter, he is given a sizeable offering from Abraham, indicating Abraham viewed the priest as ranking higher spiritually than himself. Melchizedek is also mentioned in Psalm 110:4, as well as in Hebrews, and considered the priestly example all should attempt to emulate.

### **Questions to Ponder:**

How did Jesus' view of suffering make him closer to God?

Do you think people today turn away from Christ because there are too many demands, or not enough to be a challenge?

Why is it hard for many people to trust the love of God? How would you explain the meaning of the priesthood of Jesus to someone like that?

What situations have made you wonder about turning away from Christ? At those times, of what advantage is it to you to remember him as your high priest?