



## More Than Qualified

*Series: Hebrews- An Anchor for the Soul*

Hebrews 5:1-10

May 29, 2016

Pastor Eddie Strickland

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**-Read 4:14-5:10**

**-Pray**

**Intro:** The author of Hebrews starts this exposition of the high priest by using the word for. And there is a reason for that because he wants the ending verses of chapter 4 to be in our minds as we consider this passage. There he encouraged us to run to the throne room of grace with confidence to find grace and mercy in time of need while holding fast to our confession of Jesus. We can go to the throne room of grace with confidence because Jesus is our High Priest.

-And let's remember how such good and wonderful news this was following the warning of a hardened heart. Again, the question that these Hebrew Christians were facing in the midst of persecution unto death was is it really worth this to follow Christ? Is it worth it to identify with Christ as my Savior and Lord and be hammered for it or would it be better to just shrink back into Judaism and be free from persecution? This was real for them and it affected all of life--- home, work, social, economic. And the answer we saw last week was a resounding yes. Holding fast to Christ was real life and real treasure that couldn't be found in being safe from persecution. Owning faith in Christ privately and publicly leads to true freedom and life and even though it's not easy it's worth it because it's the only place you find rest for your soul. Knowing that Jesus's atonement for our sins is eternal and that He makes intercession for us and that through His holiness and power He enables us to persevere gives us a desire to follow Him and spiritual backbone to trust Him and cling to our faith and to persevere to the end. And seeing Jesus like this motivates us to faithfulness. And all of this gives us the confidence to draw near. Holding fast and drawing near is totally worth it.

-But the author knows that because he has introduced Jesus as our High Priest and has encouraged his hearers to hold fast to Him and run to Him to find mercy and grace to help that it's inevitable that the people are going to make comparisons to the priesthood of Aaron that they know. And if he really wants the people to run to Christ then they need to understand just

how it is that Christ is really qualified and able to fulfill this role of High Priest and truly help them. Think about it. The ability of someone to help is dependent on if they meet the qualifications to provide that help. If I need help and really want help then I will go to someone that is qualified to give me the help that I need. And if someone tells me to go to a specific person then I want to be sure that the person recommended is the right person and meets the standard qualifications for being able to really help me. Talk about examples---Jimmy Cannon (trained and has years of valuable experience) versus Brett Williams (drives with his knee even at high speeds going off the road).

-These hearers need to know that Jesus is ultimately qualified to help them as they have been encouraged to go to Him. And so the author does just this in the passage we look at today. And what we find here is that Jesus far exceeds the qualifications of High Priest and is the ultimate fulfillment of them and more than exceeds any ideal that we could think of concerning the position. Jesus's priesthood is far superior to Aaron's and that fact is glorious and beneficial to us. What we learn today of Christ should motivate and cultivate in us a deep love for Him and a deep trust of Him and desire to run to Him and find the eternal rest of God that can only be found in Him. My prayer for us today is that it does.

## **1 – Some Qualifications for High Priesthood (1-4)**

### **A – Chosen from among men to act on behalf of men in relation to God (1)**

**- “For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.” (Hebrews 5:1, ESV)**

-What we see here is that the high priest was chosen from among men. Well, why? It is because of the representative role. Who can represent men before God if they are not like them? Who can represent man except a man? The answer is nobody. The representative of man must be human to relate. An angel or celestial being or deceased soul can't fulfill this calling. It is exactly because he is identified by nature with man that he can sufficiently act and plead on their behalf. Man's representative needs to be a man who can understand and feel for man.

-Think about Aaron. Aaron and his successors, who represented the nation of Israel in the presence of God, were Israelites themselves. They could relate with the conditions in which their people lived. They were exposed to the same pressures, trials and temptations as the people that they represented. The high priest just didn't emerge one time a year on the Day of Atonement and perform a function and then retreat until the next appearance the next year. No, the high priest lived life with the people that they represented. Life's stresses and joys and misunderstandings and victories and humiliations humanize him. Just like today---we get each other because we do life together. Raising children, busy schedules, sticky notes, trials, temptations, bills and on and on. These experiences together qualify us to understand. And it was no different for the high priest. The experience of life together better qualified him to represent his people and was essential for his ministry and his being a representative in relation to God.

The priest had to be human in order to represent other humans because it is humans who stand condemned before God for their sin.

**-One way he does this is to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins---**as we have learned in our study of Leviticus is that to come into the presence of God the problem of sin has to be dealt with. And the priest that is to represent man before God concerning sin has to be holy himself and then is to offer sacrifices for the sin of the people so that sin can be atoned for. This is his function as a representative. And there is to be more than just outward function but there is also to be an inward holiness and posture before God in worship, which is a matter of the heart. There was a weightiness to being the representative of man before God and thus it had to be a man that could relate to those who he represented. And that brings us to the next qualification.

**B – Be Able To relate to others and be at one with them & sympathize (2-3)**

**- “He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.” (Hebrews 5:2–3, ESV)**

-We have talked about this already in that the high priest lives life with the people he represents but I want to look at some specifics that are brought up in these verses.

**-Verse 2 says that the high priest can deal gently.** Well, what does that mean? That word in the Greek carries the meaning of exercising moderation in emotions or passions. It is being on middle ground or in the middle of the spectrum in one’s response and not at either end of extreme. The extremes range from harsh and critical anger verses the opposite end, which would be indifference or apathy. This speaks to the high priest having an inward disposition that understands and relates and thus deals gently with others using self-control. Well, who are these others that he is dealing gently with?

**-He deals gently with the ignorant and wayward---**this can also mean wayward because of ignorance but it is not mandatory. Here we can make distinctions based on what we know of Scripture. Of course we know that ignorance is without knowledge. One can act foolishly because of ignorance or because we do not know any better. And wayward carries the meaning of wandering from the right path or to be lead astray. One is wayward when he strays from the truth and is deceived. And surely this can include every believer because we have all acted foolishly in ignorance and we have all been deceived by sin and strayed from the truth in sin. But the distinction here is to those who commit high-handed sin against God, intentional sin in rejection of the truth. Scripture makes no provision for them. In the OT we see there is no provision for intentional sin. And in Hebrews later on in chapter 10 we see that if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins but only a fearful expectation of judgment. Christ is the only sacrifice for sins for the world and those who reject that one and only sufficient sacrifice are left without one. The modern example today is between those who despite their faith in Christ as Savior still struggle with sin in ignorance and weakness versus those who reject Christ and His gospel and sin without repentance. But the high priest will deal gently with the ignorant and wayward because he is aware of some truths about himself.

**-He will be aware that he is in the same boat with the people he represents as it concerns the areas of weakness and sin.** These verses tell us that the high priest was beset with weakness. The high priest was a sinner. That's why he was obligated to offer sacrifices for his own sins just like he does for his people. That's why on the Day of Atonement he had to offer sacrifices for himself and his own sins before he could ever represent the people and offer sacrifices for theirs that was acceptable to God. Think of Aaron for a minute. Moses goes up on the mountain for a while and when he comes back Aaron had led the people into idolatrous worship. And when asked about it he went down the self-justification and blame shifting path that Adam blazed for us and that we are so good at. Aaron's response was this:

**- "And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?" And Aaron said, "Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. For they said to me, 'Make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' So I said to them, 'Let any who have gold take it off.' So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.'" (Exodus 32:21–24, ESV)**

-Aaron was a sinner and so was every man that ever served as high priest. And it was crucial to his ministry that he didn't forget that. His recognition of his weakness and sin made him dependent on God and created in him a reverence for God and His deliverance and gave him an inward disposition of relating to his people in their ignorance and sin because he knew he was just like them.

-We need the same awareness of our weakness and sin. We are all sinners but it's easy for us to forget our sinfulness and our weakness and to consider ourselves better than others because we don't do this or that. It's easy for us, in our pride, to look down our noses at others and be harsh and critical because of their weaknesses and their sin. But a harsh, judgmental, unsympathetic spirit is a telltale indication that one has outgrown the sense of his own weakness and awareness of his own sin. Thus, this is an indication that one has outgrown his need for grace which means he has outgrown his awareness of who Christ is and what He has done to save him. Now this doesn't mean that we never confront sin in each other because that is a great gracious and loving thing for us to do for each other. We need that. But we do that in love and humility not in critical harshness and judgmentally. And we do it with the recognition of our own sinfulness---we remove the log in our own eye before we go after the

speck in our brother's eye. Oh how I pray that as a church we understand this and apply this lesson to our lives together.

### **C – The High Priest is appointed and called by God (4)**

**- “And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.”  
(Hebrews 5:4, ESV)**

-Aaron wasn't looking for this position. He just happened to be Moses brother and God called Aaron to this. Moses himself was giving every excuse in the book as to why he couldn't fulfill God's calling to him to lead his people. So God called Aaron to this to fulfill His plan for His people. Every high priest was to be called by God and not seek this honor for himself nor seek glory for himself.

-If one assumed this position on his own authority it never went well but was met with the severe judgment of God. Korah and his 250 followers were swallowed up by the earth because they elevated themselves to the priestly office by burning unauthorized incense before the Lord (Numbers 16:16-40). Saul lost his reign and God ended his kingdom because he impatiently assumed Samuel's priestly function of offering the burnt offering (1 Samuel 13:8-ff). And I want to share this episode about King Uzziah because it illustrates this point well.

**- “And Uzziah prepared for all the army shields, spears, helmets, coats of mail, bows, and stones for slinging. In Jerusalem he made machines, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and great stones. And his fame spread far, for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong. But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the LORD his God and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. But Azariah the priest went in after him, with eighty priests of the LORD who were men of valor, and they withstood King Uzziah and said to him, “It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Go out of the sanctuary, for you have done wrong, and it will bring you no honor from the LORD God.” Then Uzziah was angry. Now he had a censer in his hand to burn incense, and when he became angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on**

**his forehead in the presence of the priests in the house of the LORD, by the altar of incense. And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous in his forehead! And they rushed him out quickly, and he himself hurried to go out, because the LORD had struck him. And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death, and being a leper lived in a separate house, for he was excluded from the house of the LORD.” (2 Chronicles 26:14–21a, ESV)**

-No genuine priest ever elevated himself to the high priestly office but was sovereignly chosen. And a proper priest was filled with deep humility. His work was never a job or a career but indeed a divine calling.

-Now as we look at these qualifications the question comes to bear: Is there any man that could ever fulfill this calling? Is there a man that could ever be our ideal High Priest? The author of Hebrews wants us to know that the answer to these questions is a resounding yes and His name is Jesus Christ!

## **2 – Jesus is More Than Qualified (5-8)**

-The author of Hebrews wants us to know that Jesus is more than qualified to be our High Priest. He wants us to know that Jesus has ultimately fulfilled these qualifications in ways that we can't even comprehend. He is worthy of all of our trust and confidence and He is worthy of all of our lives and He is worthy of all of our worship and praise. Look at the ways Jesus has fulfilled these qualifications.

### **A – Christ was appointed (5-6)**

- **“So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”” (Hebrews 5:5–6, ESV)**

-Notice that the author uses the title Christ for Jesus here which points to Him as the anointed one or the Messiah. And then he quotes Psalm 2 again which was considered to be a Messianic Psalm that prophesied the coming Messiah. And in that quote the author is equating the Messiah with the one and only Son of God. The Messiah is none other than the Son of God, Jesus and He will always be the eternal Son of God. And being one with God in essence and nature and character as we saw in chapter 1 of this book, not even Christ would take it upon Himself to exalt and elevate Himself to be made high priest. He didn't consider equality with God a thing to be grasped so He humbled Himself and took the form of man and submitted Himself totally to the will of God and was obedient. Do you see the humility and reverence of Christ to the Father here? It's amazing!

-That Christ has been appointed by God Himself to be our mediator is seen clearly here and that gives us confidence and assurance. If He had been appointed by man then we might question His authority but God has appointed Him to fulfill this role and He does it perfectly and humbly. Christ's appointment by God shows us that our High Priest is totally acceptable before and by God. We can trust in Him! The NT picture of the Messiah is seen as one who has come to serve and never one to snatch at positions of honor. He was despised among men but He humbled Himself and was obedient. And God exalted Him as both Lord and Christ and appointed Him to be the eternal Son and the eternal High Priest as we see in the next quote.

-Not only was Jesus the eternal Son of the Father but He has been appointed the eternal High Priest as well. The same God who proclaimed Jesus as His beloved Son has also proclaimed Him as our eternal High Priest as is shown in the second quote of Psalm 110.

**- "as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.""  
(Hebrews 5:6, ESV)**

-The author introduces the order of Melchizedek here. I am going to restrain myself from preaching chapter 7 here but what is the author pointing us to here. For a quick commentary look at 7:1-3.



**- “For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.” (Hebrews 7:1–3, ESV)**

-What we see here concerning the order of Melchizedek is an eternal priesthood. Melchizedek has no beginning or no end but continues as a priest forever. And he is both king of righteousness and peace and he is both king and priest forever. What the author wants us to see here is that Melchizedek’s priesthood is one that points to the eternal nature of Christ’s ultimate priesthood. Not only is His Sonship eternal but He is our eternal king and priest forever. The grace and mercy that we find at the throne room of grace will never run dry because Jesus is our eternal king and High Priest forever. We can always trust Him and always find life in Him and always find the grace and mercy that we need in and through Him and His finished work. He is ultimately qualified to be our High Priest because of His finished work and that work being accepted by God and God designating Him as His Son and our High Priests. Run to Him beloved!!

**B – He was taken from among men---In the days of His flesh (7a)**

**- “In the days of his flesh,.” (Hebrews 5:7a, ESV)**

-The author wants us to know that His incarnation was real. He wants us to know that Jesus living life with us is real and His experience of this life was real. Jesus really was fully man and He really lived and He really died.

-Jesus had to be man. He had to come and live among us and know the conditions, trials, temptations of this evil world so that He could represent us. Remember the questions we asked when we spoke of this qualification earlier. Who can represent men before God if they are not like them? Who can represent man except a man? The answer is nobody. The

representative of man must be human to relate. For Jesus to be our representative before God He had to be like us so He had to be human. He was fully God but He had to be fully human as well (see Hebrews 2:17).

-And just as Aaron's priesthood was taken from among men so was Jesus. And just as Aaron's priesthood was to represent man in matters relating to God so does Jesus in more than an ideal way. And just as Aaron's priesthood was to offer sacrifices before God to make atonement for the people so does Jesus but in a perfect and eternal way. Jesus's sacrifice on our behalf is once and for all accepted by God to give us life and atone for our sins and reconcile us to God and give us peace and forgiveness. And He had to be fully man to be our representative.

-And one distinction that we must never miss or forget here. One thing that distinguishes and elevates Jesus priesthood over Aaron's is this: Jesus never had to offer sacrifices for His own sins like Aaron's because He was sinless. He came and took the form of man and was perfectly obedient to the will and law of God. He is our ultimate High Priest and He has entered the heavens by way, not of the blood of bulls and goats, but by the way of His own perfect blood without blemish so that we might stand justified in the presence of God. And by His perfect sacrifice as a man from among us we really can come with confidence to the throne room of God and find grace and mercy in time of need. And Jesus can really relate and sympathize with us because He was human.

### **C – He can relate to and sympathize with others (7-8)**

**- “In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.”  
(Hebrews 5:7–8, ESV)**

-I think sometimes we are so fierce in defending and protecting the deity of Jesus that we forget that He really was human. The author of Hebrews wants us to see that humanity here as he gives us a glimpse into some of the experiences of Jesus in the days of His flesh.

-Verse 7 tells us that **Jesus offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to God who was able to save Him from death.** I know that Jesus prayed often and fervently. I know that Jesus faced much temptation and trial and persecution that called for this kind of prayer. But I can't help but think that the author of Hebrews has in mind Jesus's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane here. The gospel accounts of Jesus praying in Gethsemane give us insight. Jesus said that His soul was troubled and sorrowful unto death. He prayed to God, who was able to save Him, that if possible to please let this cup (the cup of God's wrath and separation from Him) pass from Him but yet, may your will be done. He prayed so fervently that Luke's account said that His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.

-To think of the separation from the Father was almost unbearable for Him so He prayed with loud cries and tears. That word for cries carries the meaning of wailing and is uttered in tremendous tension or searing pain. The thought of separation from the Father and the Father's face turning away from Him was caused His soul so much anguish and sorrow that it threatened the very human life that He had taken in humility. There is no anguish of the human spirit that we can know that is deeper than what Jesus has experienced and knows. He really can sympathize with us.

-This separation was not the result of any sin of Jesus but of mine and yours. We are the ignorant and wayward not Him. Jesus is sweating blood thinking about being separated from the Father but willing to be obedient to death and suffering so that we might have forgiveness and life and the Father would be glorified in our redemption. He didn't deserve this and in His time of need He went into communion with the Father in prayer. And He was heard.

**-He was heard because of His reverence---**Well, what do you mean He was heard. We could easily look at this and come to the conclusion that He wasn't heard. We could come to this conclusion because the cup did not pass from Him, God didn't save Him but He went to the cross. What's the deal here? How was He heard? He was heard because of His reverence and holy and godly fear of the Father. Jesus did not doubt for one second God's ability to save Him.

As a man He desired that if possible for God that this cup pass but also as a man, He desired the will of God to be done more. And God did hear and even though God did not answer in the way that Jesus requested it did not affect the obedience of Christ. He was strengthened by the presence of God and He set His face like a flint for the cross and for the joy of obedience that was set before Him He endured it for us and the glory of the Father. There was no resentment or anger in Jesus because His prayer didn't get answered exactly as He prayed it. There was no anger or resentment in Jesus when this life threw something at Him that was not convenient or easy. Jesus had no resentment toward the Father for the cross but only a desire to glorify Him in His obedience to the Father's will. Jesus perfectly accepted God's divine will. Oh church, how we need to learn and apply to our lives the heart of Christ we see here. How often is it that our obedience is affected by our resentment and hatred of life's trials and tribulations in our lives. How often instead of running to God in prayer and desiring His will to be done no matter what that we run from Him in anger and frustration. If we lose confidence and trust in God in the midst of this our hearts will grow cold to Him and we will grow hard. Jesus did not but He obeyed. The author of Hebrews says that...

**-He learned obedience through what He suffered---**Here is where we limit His humanity. We think that because Jesus is fully God that He didn't have to learn and grow in His humanity. But Luke tells us that Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. Every time that Jesus obeyed He grew in that obedience and had even more of a desire to obey. And every time that Jesus suffered He grew in that and had even more a desire to obey. Every time Jesus obeyed He more of what obedience was and desired it even more. It's not that Jesus had to grow from disobedience to obedience but He grew in the strength and wisdom of obedience and He continually wanted God's will to be His own. And when that is your heart you are motivated to faithful obedience and Jesus took His obedience to the point you couldn't go any further---He took it to His death.

-His obedience was rooted in His love for the Father and a desire to please and honor and glorify Him!

### **3 – The Results of Jesus Finished Work (9-10)**

**- “And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.” (Hebrews 5:9–10, ESV)**

**-Being made perfect---**Don't take this to mean that Jesus was imperfect and had to become perfect. This is not at all what this means. What this means is the same as it meant earlier in this book. It carries the idea that Jesus in His human experience is fully qualified to fulfill this role and be our Savior and High Priest. In Greek thought, something was made perfect if it perfectly carried out the purpose for which it was designed. When this word was used it was not used in the abstract but in terms of function. What the writer of Hebrews is telling us is that all of the human experiences of Jesus, including suffering, that He has passed through perfectly has fitted and qualified Him to become the Savior of the world.

**-And in being made perfect He became the source of eternal salvation.** What is required for salvation and to be in the presence of God---perfect righteousness. God is holy and Scripture says that He will not dwell with evil. So there is a perfect righteousness needed to dwell in the presence of God. Do we have any---not according to Scripture. There is none righteous---no not even one. Our problem is not that we are just morally flawed but we are morally corrupt because of sin. Perfect righteousness is what we desperately need. And we can't earn it, buy it or obtain it in any way on our own. There is only one source of this righteousness---and that source is Christ.

**-How is Christ our source of righteousness?** It is precisely what we have looked at in His humanity and His being qualified for High Priest. He took on human form and He humbled Himself and was perfectly obedient. He joyfully and perfectly obeyed the law of God that we have failed miserably at. And in His perfect obedience He has earned the perfect righteousness needed to be in fellowship with God. Christ didn't have to earn righteousness for Himself---He was perfectly righteous in His deity. But the righteousness that Christ earned in His perfect obedience was earned for us. He earned the righteousness that we needed for life in the presence of God. He humbled Himself and took on flesh and learned obedience and endured suffering so that you and I and everyone else who repents and believes might have life. He was chosen among men, appointed by God and has experienced human life so that we might have spiritual life in the presence of God as He knows it. That's why He would pray for this in His high priestly prayer in John 17. Jesus placed Himself in the path where sinners like us walk in order that He might fulfill all righteousness and become the only source of salvation. This was the context of His obedience. And He obeyed to the very end earning the righteousness

needed to open up the way for sinners to enter into salvation. And His perfect finished work has secured for His children an eternal salvation. On that cross Jesus became sin so that we might become the righteousness of God. And God has designated Him as our High Priest. How amazing is this truth beloved! Because of Christ's finished work, we can stand before God clothed in the perfect righteousness that Christ earned on our behalf through His obedience and suffering as the God-man.

#### **4 – For whom is Christ the source of salvation? (9b)**

**- “And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,”  
(Hebrews 5:9, ESV)**

-Christ is the source of salvation for those who obey Him just as He did the Father. Now don't immediately think that now salvation is by works of obedience and not by grace through faith. That's not what this is saying. The testimony of Scripture is that true saving faith in Christ will always evidence itself in a life of obedience---not perfect but a pattern of it. And think about it. Christ's heart and motivation for obeying the Father was a deep love for Him and a deep desire to commune with Him and to please the Father. Jesus wanted all of His humanity to please the Father and His obedience and submission to the Father's will did please the Father.

-So if we are truly saved and our faith is real, it will prove itself in our lives by our obedience. Now, the important question for us is to ask what is the motivation for our obedience. Is our motivation rooted and grounded in our deep love for Christ? Or are we trying to earn merit and acceptance by God for what we do? Do we do what we do so that we might be seen by men? What we have seen today in the obedience of Christ proves that the only true obedience is obedience that is motivated by a real love for Him. Jesus would tell us that if we love Him we will obey His commands.

-What about us? Our obedience must be rooted and grounded in our love for Christ and what He has done in our place. Think about it. He humbled Himself and came and perfectly obeyed and perfectly finished the work the Father gave him to do so that you might have life. What

more could He do for us? What else would we have Him do for us to love Him with a love that is real? What more motivation do we need to desire to live a life that is pleasing to Him? Nothing---our answer should be nothing.

**Application: Be encouraged and do what the author of Hebrews has exhorted us to do---hold fast and draw near to Christ because He is more than qualified.**

**1 – Trust Him as Savior and Lord and hold fast and run to Him with confidence in who His is and what He has done.** He is perfectly qualified to help us find the grace and mercy that we need. He has demonstrated that He is worthy of our trust and confidence. He really can sympathize and relate to us because His humanity is real and His experiences is real. His temptations and suffering were real and His love for you is real. Run to Him beloved. He is our only hope in this world. He is our only source of salvation.

-I know that there are some here today that don't Christ in a real way and that don't have true saving faith. I am begging you today to run to Him as well. He calls you to come knowing that He will receive you and never cast you out. Run to Him and place your faith and trust in Him to save you and He will. Let today be the day that you are clothed with His perfect righteousness and have this same confidence and trust in Him. He is perfectly qualified to be your source of salvation and perseverance as well.

**2 – Obey Him because you love Him.** Don't think this is easy. If we are to obey Christ then we have to totally realize that we are not righteous. It's not my work that matters but the finished work of Christ is what we have to trust in at all times. Our works are unable to save so we must put aside our trust in our church attendance, our religious accomplishments, your proper upbringing, your status in the world, your bank account, and your trust in anything else except the saving work of Jesus Christ that we have looked at today. Stir in your thoughts the saving work of Christ to you personally and let that stoke in your hearts a deep love for Christ (a real person and object of your faith) that creates a deep desire to obey Him and please Him and run to Him for grace and mercy in time of need. As we have seen today---He is more than qualified.

-Following Christ and holding fast to Him and drawing near to Him is totally worth it---Do it!

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