

Last week, we ended with a brief consideration of Hebrews 4:13: “No creature is hidden from His sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

This leaves us completely exposed to Almighty God. He sees and knows all of our faults, all of our sins, every failing we’ve ever done, all of it.

As we have seen, we can choose to face Him ourselves and attempt to explain away all of our own filth.

Or, we can put our faith in another who takes away all of our sin, filth, and failure by offering Himself in our place.

Hebrews argues we should put our faith in this other person who has agreed to cover our sins for us. Thus the argument is to look to Jesus, the great high priest.

Jesus as high priest has:

- Passed through the heavens 4:14
- Can sympathize with our weaknesses 4:15
- Was tempted in every way like we are, yet did not give in to it. 4:15

This leads to a great encouragement in 4:16: Draw near with confidence to the throne of grace.

Hebrews 5:1-4 gives a general description of the role of the high priests and the qualifications of the high priest.

- One element is the ability of the high priest to deal gently with people in their weaknesses and failings since he is also subject to weaknesses and failings.
- The true high priests are called by God to fulfill this role.

Hebrews 5:5-10 details Jesus’ qualifications to be high priest.

- He was appointed: Jesús did not make Himself to be a high priest, but, quoting Psalm 110:4, argues that God appointed Jesus to be “high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”
- He can sympathize with people suffering weakness as He has experienced all of it.
- He offers the sacrifice that brings eternal salvation, forgiveness of sins.

- This is the first mention of Melchizedek. His story is recorded in Genesis 14. Hebrews will argue that Christ's priesthood belongs to the order of Melchizedek which is not derived from the Old Testament priesthood which descends from Aaron. We will discuss some of the competing views about Melchizedek over the next couple classes.

Hebrews 5:11-14 continues the pattern we've already seen as the Author expresses some frustration with the recipients of the letter. They are falling behind, drifting away, not growing up. They are becoming dull and sleepy in the things of God. So, he issues a warning to them to not fall away or drift away but to grow up and put their faith into practice. This echoes his first warning in Hebrews 2:1 We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.