

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for September 28, 2014

Christ Our Great High Priest
Hebrews 4:14-15

Christ's priesthood is superior to all other priesthoods (Hebrews 4:14-10:18).

The author of Hebrews in Hebrews 4:14-16 focused his readers on Christ's heavenly, high-priestly ministry.

So how did the author focus his readers on the heavenly, high-priestly ministry of Christ?

The author, at the beginning of Hebrews 4:14, reiterated truths that he had already established in the epistle.

The author, based on the truths that he had reiterated at the beginning of Hebrews 4:14, then exhorted his readers.

Because Jesus the Son of God was in fact their great heavenly, high priest, the author exhorted his readers to hold fast their confession (John 4:14).

The word "hold fast" (KRATEO) in this context refers to "commitment" (Mark 7:3-4).

In this context, the confession would be what we together with God and others declared to be true when we in response to the gospel received Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and thus in effect as our great, heavenly, high priest.

The word "to sympathize" (SUMPATHEO) literally means to "suffer with" and is experienced when an individual in response to another person's distress finds their self inclined to help (Hebrews 10:34).

The word "weakness" (AESTHENEIA) does not necessarily refer to sins but may refer to the various frailties which often are the occasions for sin.

Christ can sympathize with our weaknesses because he has gone through what we have gone through and far more than what we have gone through yet without sin.

Because Christ is our great heavenly high priest, may we by the grace of God continue to hold fast our confession, no matter how difficult our circumstances might be.