

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for September 20, 2015

The Superiority of Christ's High Priestly Ministry
Hebrews 8:1-6

Having set forth the superiority of Christ to prophets, to angels, and to Moses, the author then set out to show the superiority of Christ's priesthood over all other priesthoods (Hebrews 5:1-10:18).

The lengthy section of scripture can be divided into two main segments.

The Son's appointment as high priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5:1-7:28).

Christ's superior high priestly offering (Hebrews 8:1-10:18).

The superiority of Christ's high priestly ministry (Hebrews 8:1-6).

The superiority of Christ's high priestly ministry was initially introduced with a transitional statement (Hebrews 8:1-2).

The transitional statement began in Hebrews 8:1 with the author pointing his readers back to what he had said earlier about Christ's superior priesthood in Hebrews 5:1-7:28.

The author then ended his transitional statement in Hebrews 8:2 by pointing his readers forward to what he was preparing to say about Christ's superior ministry in Hebrews 8:3-5.

The word "true" is referencing that which is "real" rather than that which is unreal or in other words that which is just a shadow of that which is real.

After the author introduced the superiority of Christ's high priestly ministry he then began to expand on the superiority of that ministry in Hebrews 8:3-5.

After the author began to expand on the superiority of Christ's high priestly ministry by establishing the necessity of His high priestly ministry in the heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 8:3).

The author's reference to "gifts" referred to the meal offering and the author's reference to "sacrifices" referred to the "blood" offerings.

The meal offerings were offered up by the priests on behalf of the people to represent personal dedication, commitment and thanksgiving to God.

The blood offerings on the other hand were for “cleansing form sin.” The priests were responsible for offering both and no one other than the priests could offer up these offerings.

The author then continued to expand on the superiority of Christ’s high priestly ministry by showing how the former high priests and their ministry in the earthly sanctuary were merely shadows of Christ and His heavenly ministry (Hebrews 8:4-5).

The author began by showing how God, the giver of the Mosaic Law, had never intended for Christ to minister as an earthly priest in an earthly sanctuary (Hebrews 8:4).

The author continued to show that the former high priests were merely shadows of Christ and His heavenly ministry by clearly stating it and then illustrating it by using Moses (Hebrews 8:5).

The author having established the superiority of Christ’s high priestly ministry then used it as evidence of a better covenant enacted on better promises (Hebrews 8:6).

May we by God’s grace honor the ministry of our great heavenly high priest by continuously taking advantage of the opportunity He provides us to bring offerings and praise and worship to His Father through Him.