

LESSON 4

CHRIST, OUR HIGH PRIEST (PART 1)

Hebrews contains thirteen statements of exhortation. These admonitions are clearly marked by Greek phrasing that is commonly translated “let us.” The first one mentions “fear,” which some consider to be a negative emotion: However, fear is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom (Prov. 1:7; 9:10), which are very positive traits. Each exhortation summons the readers to a higher state of life.

CHRIST’S REST (3:7—4:13) (CONTINUED)

The climax of the section beginning with 3:1 is 4:1–13, which charged the first readers of Hebrews to acknowledge Christ’s superiority over Moses and to leave Judaism behind.

1. What significance is seen in the idea of “rest”?
2. How does the idea of Sabbath relate to a Christian?
3. Explain the allusion to Joshua/Jesus in verse 8.
4. If the “rest” of verse 10 does not imply inactivity, what does it imply?
5. List concrete examples of how we can “be diligent” (v. 11).
6. How did the author explain works and salvation?
7. According to verses 12 and 13, what abilities does the gospel have in regard to our hearts?
8. What are other possible meanings of “the word” in verse 12?

**THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST
AS HIGH PRIEST OVER AARON (4:14—5:10)**

The honor that Jewish believers attached to their high priest virtually necessitated that Christians understand how Christ replaced that role. They had to see that He superseded the ordinary, human high priesthood by providing a heavenly High Priesthood that far exceeded what the Law provided. Jesus is the High Priest chosen by God and ordained for man's benefit. Obviously, He was selected by God to do the work of God, and He fulfilled His task while on the earth (Jn. 17:4). He was God-selected and God-appointed.

9. What are some implications of Jesus' serving as our High Priest?
10. How could Jesus' position as High Priest cause confusion?
11. How does Christ sympathize with us?
12. Since Jesus is our High Priest, how can we approach the Father?