

Hebrews 7.20

Priest by Oath

There is no shortage of people and methods attempting to define God and Christ according to their own ideas. From the false sects who claim to be Christian such as the Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses to the atheist who denies Him altogether; every single religion is a statement about the veracity of scripture and the power of God to save. Every single religion at its heart says something (even in silence or denial) about Jesus Christ. True Christianity also says something about Christ, and it says in echo, what God Himself has said. Christ is EVERYTHING! Christ is the very heart of all creation and the reason for its existence. God Himself tells us the center of all things is Jesus when He confirmed the priesthood of Jesus with an oath. His own vow, His own promise staking His name on the worth and truth of this man Jesus Christ.

I. GOD HAS MADE CHRIST THE PRIEST.

- A. In making Him priest out of Judah, He ended the Levitical priesthood by establishing a new beginning.
- B. In making Him a priest of Melchizedek's order He ends the order of Aaron.
- C. He declares Him a priest forever - there shall never be any other, nor a need for any other
- D. He did all of this not merely in His action, but accompanied it with an oath confirming the matter forever. There will never be any other means for us to get to God.

II. GOD'S OATHS STAND

- A. For us to try and make Christ out to be other than He is, is rebellion against God's will and defies the oath of God.
- B. His promises are never failing, He will always accomplish His intended purpose. –
Isaiah 46.8-13
- C. We absolutely NEED Christ to be exactly who God says He is, for to attempt to make a new way will not only fail and condemn us, but will become that which we fixate upon and

render us blind to the truth regardless of any facts or influence.

D. We cannot convince God to confirm our ideas about Him when they are contrary to truth.

E. Consider how God silenced the disciples on the mountain of transfiguration... "hear him"

Matthew 17.1-8

1. God would not let them finish
2. God would not tolerate their nonsense
3. After He silenced them all that remained was Jesus.

III. GOD'S OATH DEFINES CHRISTIANITY

- A. Christ is what it means to be Christian
- B. When we allow anything to be the focus of what we do apart from Christ, we cease being Christian.
- C. To make your focus on a thing is to follow that thing and to attempt to be like it
- D. To set yourself up as the one who dictates what priority anything has apart from and over Christ is to be guilty of the blood of the Lamb,

to trample it underfoot and make it of no consequence in your mind.

E. The whole point of life itself is to be conformed to the image of Christ –

Romans 8.28-30

F. Christ is WORTH being the focus and WORTH being imitated in every way.

IV. GOD'S OATH HONORS CHRIST

- A. It takes into account the eternal worth and value of what He did for us
- B. It reminds us that no other course or action will avail
- C. It declares the power of God to accomplish His will without our help
- D. It establishes and strengthens the foundation of the church and the salvation which God has made for her, and the message which she is called to proclaim.
- E. It encourages us to not stray from the path it defines.

V. GOD'S OATH IS EXCLUSIVE

- A. It is based upon the faithfulness of God in every way
- B. His oath is a guarantee of His word and His promise
- C. It is not an oath such as attempts to bind Him against His will, but rather an oath and a promise to encourage and strengthen our faith

VI. GOD'S OATH IS A COMMAND

- A. God is not interested in our ideas about Him, His will, His worship or His commands
- B. God is not interested in how we think we ought to approach or obey
- C. God is not interested in what our best efforts look like
- D. God is not interested in our creative whims when it comes to the things He Himself has told us to do...
- E. Let us not be guilty of testing God on this most crucial point. For God will not hold him guiltless who takes on the name of Christ in vain.

““You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.” (Exodus 20:7, NKJV)

also **Deuteronomy 5.11**

1. To honor another more
2. To rob Christ of His singular role, authority and ability
3. To confer upon another that which belongs only to Him
4. To name the name of Christ but define its flavor according to the ideas of man is false in every way and a denial of the Christ who bought you. - **Jude 3-4**

“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Jude 3–4, NKJV)