

GROWTH GROUPS

January 15, 2012

Hebrews 7:11-28

Conversation Starter –

“Expectations often drive our behavior or the way we live our life.” Share examples of when this statement would be considered true in your life.

Understanding –

This passage compares and contrasts Jesus (our great high priest) with the priests of the old covenant descended from Aaron and Levi. Calling the old covenant “weak, useless and unable to make us perfect” in the eyes of God, the writer commends Christ as the one whose priesthood is established in POWER, as the result of a PROMISE, guaranteed by his PURITY to present us PERFECT before God.

1. Matthew 5:43-48 reveals that God’s standard for his children is perfection. What do you think this means? How can we measure up? How does this make you feel?
2. Verse 16 says that Jesus’ priesthood was established on the basis of an indestructible life while the priesthood of others is established by ancestry. Why is an indestructible life a better basis than ancestry for the great high priest?
3. God introduced Melchizedek prior to the establishment of the Levitical priesthood. (Genesis 14) He does this to foreshadow the “great high priest” (Jesus) who would establish the “new covenant” even before God fully established the old covenant. This being the case, what’s the purpose of the old covenant....why did God give the law? (see Romans 7 for help)
4. Read Romans 6:23 in light of verses 26-28. How does Jesus become the gift of salvation. How is Jesus the atoning sacrifice which was foreshadowed by the lamb in Leviticus 16. What difference does this make in our life as we hope to meet God’s expectation of perfection?

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