

Hebrews 2:17 The Merciful and Faithful High Priest

Heb 2:10-18; 10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. 13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. 14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. 17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

I awoke this morning with this phrase "Merciful High Priest" on my mind and heart. Turning to scripture to see what I could find on this phrase I found the phrase listed in only one place: Hebrews 2:17, with the added word of faithful. As I began reading different commentaries and scripture references I found that it is necessary that the faithful be included in the phrase.

If you read all of Hebrews 2 you will get a better feel of the context of the phrase. Let's begin with the first word "merciful". Merciful is from the Greek word "eleemon" (Strong's 1655) and by definition means: compassionate.

"16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham." In order to be compassionate, Jesus took on a body of flesh, like unto our with the exception of the inherit sin nature we have, in order to fully comprehend, and to understand the passions of the temptations of sin in the flesh. Having lived a life of flesh, Jesus could now have true pity and compassion for his fellow man, because he understood temptation. We remember when satan tempted Jesus, Jesus always answered with scripture, which is a good lesson for us today. If we are well studied in the word of God, when we are tempted to sin, we can also give a ready answer, from the bible to satan. Having therefore taken on the fleshly body Jesus could indeed extend to his people compassion and mercy.

"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God,"

Faithful is from the Greek word "pistos" (Strong's 4103) and by definition means: trustworthy, sure, true. What does faithful have to do with being a merciful high priest? Let's consider how Christ was faithful. Jesus in the fleshly body was tempted just like we are all tempted in the flesh. The difference in us and Jesus is: Jesus never yielded to temptation so his body remained free of sin. Jesus fulfilled the whole of the law commandments which we, nor those before us, are able to do. Why, because we have that fallen, inherit, sin nature we got from Adam.

Jesus came to earth, from heaven, with the knowledge that he must be the sacrifice for sins and die a natural body death. Had Jesus not been faithful in completing the will of God the Father, we would today have no hope of eternal life in the eternal heaven with God. Now you see that it was necessary that Christ be "faithful" to God the Father in all things.

"to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."

High priest is from the Greek word "archiereus" (Strong's 749) and by definition means: the high priest, the chief high priest. We know from the Old Testament scripture; the high priest, only, went into the holiest of holy place to make atonement for the sins of all Israel, God's people on earth at that time. This is the exact office that Jesus Christ executed when he hung himself upon the tree of

the cross. But some will object; Jesus was not crucified in the temple so this cannot be. Let's remember what happened when Jesus died on the cross according to scripture: **Mr 15:37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. 38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.** It was not necessary that Jesus be crucified in the temple for two reasons:

One: scripture prophesied that he would be crucified outside the temple, and the actual sacrifices for sin were actually made in the tabernacle of the congregation, the outer court.

Two: the veil was rent in twain; so that man could see that the office of High Priest, on earth, was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Now man could look into the holiest of holy place and see the mercy seat that covered the law commandments in the ark of the testimony.

Jesus Christ (once incarnate, now risen and exalted Saviour and Lord) completed the will of God the Father, and made possible our eternal forgiveness of sins, and gives unto us eternal life. He can do this because, as scripture testifies, He is the "**merciful and faithful high priest.**" Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for faithfully completing the will of God the Father, and for making our eternal life sure.

Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

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