

# Christ: The Author of Eternal Salvation

**MEMORY VERSE:** “*And being made perfect, [Christ] became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him*” (Hebrews 5:9).

“The whole of our salvation comes through the gift of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. How glad I am. It comes from such a source that we cannot doubt it. And He is ‘the author’—does it stop there? Does it stop there? ‘The author and finisher of our faith’ (Hebrews 12:2). Thank God. He attends us every step of the way through, if we are willing to be saved in Christ’s appointed way, through obedience to His requirements.”—*This Day With God*, p. 72.

**Suggested Reading:** *The Great Controversy*, pp. 488-491. (At the bottom of this page)

## 1. THE APPOINTED HIGH PRIEST

*Sunday, January 28*

**a. What was the function of a high priest in Old Testament times? Hebrews 5:1, 2.**

**Hebrews 5:1-2**

For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: **2** Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

“The high priest was designed in an especial manner to represent Christ.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments]*, vol. 5, p. 1100.

**b. To which order of priesthood was Christ connected—and what does His priesthood mean for us? Hebrews 5:5, 6, 10.**

**Hebrews 5:5, 6, 10.**

So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. **6** As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. **10** Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

“Christ glorified not Himself in being made High Priest. God gave Him His appointment to the priesthood. He was to be an example to all the human family. He qualified Himself to be, not only the representative of the race, but their Advocate, so

that every soul if he will may say, I have a Friend at court. He is a High Priest that can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 7, p. 930.

“Let us remember that our great High Priest is pleading before the mercy seat in behalf of His ransomed people. He ever liveth to make intercession for us.”—*Ibid.*, p. 948.

## 2. MELCHISEDEK

Monday, January 29

### a. In what ways did Melchisedek prefigure Christ? Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 7:1–4.

#### Genesis 14:18

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

#### Hebrews 7:1-4

For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; **2** To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; **3** Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. **4** Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

“God has never left Himself without witness on the earth. At one time Melchisedek represented the Lord Jesus Christ in person, to reveal the truth of heaven, and perpetuate the law of God.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments]*, vol. 1, p. 1092.

“It was Christ that spoke through Melchisedek, the priest of the most high God. Melchisedek was not Christ, but he was the voice of God in the world, the representative of the Father.”—*Ibid.*, p. 1093.

### b. Why couldn't Christ be the High Priest on earth? Hebrews 7:14–17.

#### Hebrews 7:14-17

For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. **15** And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, **16** Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. **17** For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

“Christ glorified not Himself in being made High Priest. God gave Him His appointment to the priesthood. He was to be an example to all the human family. He qualified Himself to be, not only the representative of the race, but their Advocate, so that every soul if he will may say, I have a Friend at court. He is a High Priest that can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 7, p. 930.

“Jesus is officiating in the presence of God, offering up His shed blood, as it had been a lamb slain. Jesus presents the oblation offered for every offense and every shortcoming of the sinner.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 1077.

### c. How did Christ prepare to be our merciful High Priest? Hebrews 5:7, 8.

#### Hebrews 5:7-8

Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; **8** Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

“While the city was hushed in silence, and the disciples had returned to their homes to obtain refreshment in sleep, Jesus slept not. His divine pleadings were ascending to His Father from the Mount of Olives that His disciples might be kept from the evil influences which they would daily encounter in the world, and that His own soul might be strengthened and braced for the duties and trials of the coming day. All night, while His followers were sleeping, was their divine Teacher praying. The dew and frost of night fell upon His head bowed in prayer. His example is left for His followers.”  
—*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 508.

“Christ, the Captain of our salvation, was made perfect through suffering. His followers will encounter the enemy many times and will be severely tried, but they need not despair. Christ says to them: ‘Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.’ John 16:33.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 8, p. 212.

## 3. SAVED TO OBEY

*Tuesday, January 30*

### a. Can we be saved if we choose to be disobedient? Explain. Matthew 1:21; Hebrews 5:9.

#### Matthew 1:21

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

#### Hebrews 5:9

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

“Here are the conditions upon which every soul will be elected to eternal life. Your obedience to God’s commandments will prove your right to an inheritance with the saints in light. God has elected a certain excellence of character; and every one who, through the grace of Christ, shall reach the standard of His requirement, will have an abundant entrance into the kingdom of glory. All who would reach this standard of character, will have to employ the means that God has provided to this end. If you would inherit the rest that remaineth for the children of God, you must become a colaborer with God. You are elected to wear the yoke of Christ—to bear His burden, to lift His cross. You are to be diligent ‘to make your calling and election sure.’ Search the Scriptures, and you will see that not a son or a daughter of Adam is elected to be saved in disobedience to God’s law. The world makes void the law of God; but Christians are chosen to sanctification through obedience to the truth. They are elected to bear the cross, if they would wear the crown.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 125.

**b. What testimony did Peter give before the Sanhedrin council—and what does this experience teach us? Acts 5:29–32.**

### Acts 5:29-32

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. **30** The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. **31** Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. **32** And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

“We are not to inquire, What is the practice of men? or, What is the custom of the world? We are not to ask, How shall I act in order to have the approval of men? or, What will the world tolerate? The question of intense interest to every soul is, What hath God said? We are to read His Word and obey it, not swerving one jot or tittle from its requirements, but acting irrespective of human traditions and jurisdiction.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments]*, vol. 6, p. 1056.

“If studied and obeyed, the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute. The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ, conforming us in body, soul, and spirit to His own image. Then God can use us to do His will. The power given us works from within outwardly, leading us to communicate to others the truth that has been communicated to us.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 100.

## 4. MOVING ON TO MATURITY

*Wednesday, January 31*

**a. Describe the sad condition of many professed believers. Hebrews 5:11–13.**

### Hebrews 5:11-13

Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. **12** For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. **13** For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

“Paul could not speak to the Jewish converts as plainly as he desired regarding the mystery of godliness. Because of their spiritual weakness, their lack of perception, he could not utter the truth, which, could they have heard aright, with intelligent comprehension, would have been to them a savor of life unto life.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments]*, vol. 6, p. 1085.

“During the year and a half that Paul had spent in Corinth, he had purposely presented the gospel in its simplicity. . . .

“Paul had necessarily adapted his manner of teaching to the condition of the church. ‘I, brethren could not speak unto you as unto spiritual,’ he afterward explained to them, ‘but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.’ 1 Corinthians 3:1, 2. Many of the Corinthian believers had been slow to learn the lessons that he was endeavoring to teach them. Their advancement in spiritual knowledge had

not been proportionate to their privileges and opportunities. When they should have been far advanced in Christian experience, and able to comprehend and to practice the deeper truths of the word, they were standing where the disciples stood when Christ said to them, ‘I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.’ John 16:12. Jealousy, evil surmising, and accusation had closed the hearts of many of the Corinthian believers against the full working of the Holy Spirit, which ‘searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.’ 1 Corinthians 2:10. However wise they might be in worldly knowledge, they were but babes in the knowledge of Christ.”—*Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 270, 271.

**b. How are we to advance to Christian perfection and what blessing awaits all that do? Hebrews 5:14; 6:1 (first part); 1 John 3:18; Hosea 6:3.**

#### Hebrews 5:14

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

#### Hebrews 6:1

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

#### 1 John 3:18

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

#### Hosea 6:3

Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

“The church will never as a whole receive the latter rain unless they shall put away all envy, evil surmising, and evil speaking. Those who have cherished hatred in the heart until it has strengthened and become part of their character, must have a different experience if they would share in the latter rain.”—*The Home Missionary*, August 1, 1896.

## 5. COMING INTO CHRISTLIKENESS

*Thursday, February 1*

**a. Describe God’s aim for His children. Philippians 3:12–16; Revelation 3:18–21.**

#### Philippians 3:12-16

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. **13** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, **14** I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. **15** Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. **16** Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

## Revelation 3:18-21

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. **19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. **20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. **21** To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

“Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God’s ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached.”—*Education*, p. 18.

“ ‘Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.’ This command is a promise. The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Satan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 311.

“The true Witness presents encouragements to all who are seeking to walk in the path of humble obedience, through faith in His name. He declares, ‘To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.’

“These are the words of our Substitute and Surety. He who is the divine Head of the church, the mightiest of conquerors, would point His followers to His life, His toils, His self-denials, His struggles and sufferings, through contempt, through rejection, ridicule, scorn, insult, mockery, falsehood, up the path of Calvary to the scene of the crucifixion, that they might be encouraged to press on toward the mark for the prize and reward of the overcomer. Victory is assured through faith and obedience.

“Let us make an application of the words of Christ to our own individual cases. Are we poor, and blind, and wretched, and miserable? Then let us seek the gold and white raiment that He offers. The work of overcoming is not restricted to the age of the martyrs. The conflict is for us, in these days of subtle temptation to worldliness, to self-security, to indulgence of pride, covetousness, false doctrines, and immorality of life.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments]*, vol. 7, p. 966.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

Friday, February 2

- 1. In what position did God appoint Christ besides High Priest?**
- 2. What is significant about the priesthood of Melchisedek?**
- 3. How does obedience to God’s Word relate to our receiving the Holy Spirit?**
- 4. Name some necessary requirements to receive the latter rain.**
- 5. What must we realize about God’s aim for us and how it is attained?**

**Suggested Reading: *The Great Controversy*, pp. 488-491.**

Satan invents unnumbered schemes to occupy our minds, that they may not dwell upon the very work with which we ought to be best acquainted. The archdeceiver hates the great truths that bring to view an atoning sacrifice and an all-powerful mediator. He

knows that with him everything depends on his diverting minds from Jesus and His truth. **(GC 488.1)**

Those who would share the benefits of the Saviour's mediation should permit nothing to interfere with their duty to perfect holiness in the fear of God. The precious hours, instead of being given to pleasure, to display, or to gain seeking, should be devoted to an earnest, prayerful study of the word of truth. The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days. **(GC 488.2)**

All who have received the light upon these subjects are to bear testimony of the great truths which God has committed to them. The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ's work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin. It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects and be able to give an answer to everyone that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them. **(GC 488.3)**

The intercession of Christ in man's behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. By His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven. We must by faith enter within the veil, "whither the forerunner is for us entered." Hebrews 6:20. There the light from the cross of Calvary is reflected. There we may gain a clearer insight into the mysteries of redemption. The salvation of man is accomplished at an infinite expense to heaven; the sacrifice made is equal to the broadest demands of the broken law of God. Jesus has opened the way to the Father's throne, and through His mediation the sincere desire of all who come to Him in faith may be presented before God. **(GC 489.1)**

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Proverbs 28:13. If those who hide and excuse their faults could see how Satan exults over them, how he taunts Christ and holy angels with their course, they would make haste to confess their sins and to put them away. Through defects in the character, Satan works to gain control of the whole mind, and he knows that if these defects are cherished, he will succeed. Therefore he is constantly seeking to deceive the followers of Christ with his fatal sophistry that it is impossible for them to overcome. But Jesus pleads in their behalf His wounded hands, His bruised body; and He declares to all who would follow Him: "My grace is sufficient for thee." 2 Corinthians 12:9. "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Matthew 11:29, 30. Let none, then, regard their defects as incurable. God will give faith and grace to overcome them. **(GC 489.2)**

We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many professed Christians must be put away. There is earnest warfare before all who would subdue the evil tendencies that strive for the mastery. The work of preparation is an individual work. We are not saved in groups. The purity and devotion of one will not offset the want of these qualities in another. Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. **(GC 489.3)**

Solemn are the scenes connected with the closing work of the atonement. Momentous are the interests involved therein. The judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above. For many years this work has been in progress. Soon—none know how soon—it will pass to the cases of the living. In the awful presence of God our lives are to come up in review. At this time above all others it behooves every soul to heed the Saviour's admonition: "Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." Mark 13:33. "If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." Revelation 3:3. **(GC 490.1)**

When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death. Probation is ended a short time before the appearing of the Lord in the clouds of heaven. Christ in the Revelation, looking forward to that time, declares: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Revelation 22:11, 12. **(GC 490.2)**

The righteous and the wicked will still be living upon the earth in their mortal state—men will be planting and building, eating and drinking, all unconscious that the final, irrevocable decision has been pronounced in the sanctuary above. Before the Flood, after Noah entered the ark, God shut him in and shut the ungodly out; but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed, continued their careless, pleasure-loving life and mocked the warnings of impending judgment. "So," says the Saviour, "shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:39. Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men. **(GC 491.1)**

"Watch ye therefore: ... lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping." Mark 13:35, 36. Perilous is the condition of those who, growing weary of their watch, turn to the attractions of the world. While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments—it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence: "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." Daniel 5:27. **(GC 491.2)**