

58-07-02.wpd --A Savior for All Seasons
priesthood, sacrifice, salvation, eternity, time
Heb 7:23-28

Nothing can hinder the effectiveness of salvation in Christ.

INTRODUCTION:

--[How many saw the film, A Man for All Seasons? It was about the life and death of Sir Thomas More, who dared to challenge King Henry the 8th in his abandonment of the RC church in order to divorce his wife and remarry. Why the title? Because Thomas More was able to do about anything he put his hand to...and do it extremely well, even to the point of standing up for moral principles and dying for them.]

--I've entitled my sermon (**title**), because not only did Jesus do "all things well," as the Gospels record, but in His sacrificial death on the Cross, He became the Savior for *all seasons*, and for *all human challenges and conditions*. As you heard in the Scripture reading, **v.25**, "*he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*" Another translation of this word "completely" is literally "at all times" or "to all extents." **HOM.idea.**

I. Christ's Salvation Is Not Hindered by Bad Church Leaders

A. Suppose a pastor or Christian leader falls into sin. In their teaching they have pointed to Christ as the way of salvation, but in their life they have betrayed Him.

1. Many examples of this [TV evangelists who have misused funds or females; Catholic priests who molested children; pastors who have ran off with a church member's wife, or with the church savings!]
2. Terrible damage can occur from this [people can abandon all churches because of a bad experience at one: my uncle's experience at a Baptist Church ... my family friend's experience at a Methodist Church] This may hinder someone from coming to Christ, but it doesn't stop Christ!

B. No one is saved by faith in churches or church leaders, but only in Christ. (One after another generation of Christian leaders have vanished, and if not by immorality, then **v.23** says, *death prevented them from continuing in office.* One Leader remains: **v.24**, *but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.*

TRANS: We don't have to worry about Jesus abandoning us, running off and taking our hope of salvation with Him... **v.26**, *Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted*

above the heavens. **Nothing hinders the effectiveness of salvation in Christ.** Jesus promised *to be with us always*, because His care and love for us never ends. His priesthood to meet our needs is permanent.

II. Christ's Salvation Is Not Hindered by Our Failures

- A. In the OT, people had to bring *animal substitutes for themselves* for the priests to sacrifice. (Even the priests, who were also sinners, had to make the same animal sacrifices for themselves.)
- B. This kind of sacrificing went on and on, because it never really got the job done... it only *put it off for another season*, but the saving work of Christ finished the job and never had to be repeated-- **v.27**, *Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.*
- C. Humans have a natural satisfaction in accomplishing a task on their own, depending on their own resources, and then getting credit for what they have done themselves.
 1. The hard thing about Christianity for some people is *letting go of their own work and totally trusting in the work of Christ alone.*
 2. Illustrated by what happens at Holy Communion: we bring to the Table not our works or sacrifices to offer, but only ourselves and our sin, and we take away from the Table what Christ alone has done on the Cross in our place.]

TRANS: This is really GOOD NEWS for sinners! If it depended on the good works and great sacrifices that we could bring to God, we would be in real trouble. But there is no condition too far gone that is beyond the saving work of Christ. The NKJV puts it this way in **Heb 7:25**, *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. "To the uttermost!"* **Nothing can hinder the effectiveness of salvation in Christ.**

III. Jesus is the Perfect Savior for an Effective Salvation

- A. God does use people who are fallible to do His work [My experience has been that *pastors and Bible teachers and church authorities* usually have good intentions, but they are not always right and can be mistaken in dealing with people who need their help.]-- **v.28a**, *For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever. We have God's oath, His promise of the effectiveness of salvation, because it's the work of*

His Son.

- B. God's plan of salvation in Christ is so effective that there's only one thing hindering it... *lack of personal application* (not accepting it for yourself personally) WHY wouldn't people accept it?
1. "*It's too good to be true!*" God is too good for it not to be true.
 2. "*I have my own ideas about salvation!*" If our own ideas could bring us salvation, God wouldn't have had to get involved. But the fact that He tries to get us to pay attention to His plan, tells us to abandon our own and trust Him.
 3. "*It's too late for me. I'm at the season of life where change is too difficult.*" Not for the *Savior for all Seasons*. It's always just the right time, and no person is too difficult for Him to save. -- **2 Cor 6:2b (NKJV)**, ...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

CONCLUSION:

--**Nothing can hinder the effectiveness of Christ's work of salvation, not the failure of the *church and its ministers* (they can't save you anyway), and not the inadequacy of *your own works* (they can't save you either).** Only a perfect Savior can do a perfect job, and that Savior is Jesus Christ.

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Heb 7:23-28 (NIV) Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; {24} but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. {25} Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. {26} Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. {27} Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. {28} For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.