



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The Epistle of S. Paul to the Hebrews

Chapter 5

Bishop Youssef



Introduction

Chapters five to ten St. Paul makes two contrasts

Old Testament	vs.	New Testament
The high priests of Israel	vs.	Jesus Christ the great high priest
The ritual animal sacrifices of the old covenant	vs.	The sacrifice of Jesus Christ



The Qualifications of the High Priest (5:1-4)

- Selected from among men
- Appointed to:
 - a. Represent men in matters related to God
 - b. Offer Gifts and sacrifices for sins
- Able to deal gently due to weakness
- Offer sacrifices for his own sins as well as those of the people
- Must be called and appointed by God



The Qualifications of the High Priest (5:1-4)

- *Compassion* is directed toward those who are ignorant and going astray
- Differences between those who sin:
 - a. “unintentionally” - by error and/or ignorance
 - b. "presumptuously" - arrogantly and acting against God



The Qualifications of the High Priest (5:1-4)

From Chapter 4:

- He has 'gone through the heavens' - not just the man-made curtain into the man-made sanctuary (4:14)
- He is the Son of God (4:14)
- He can sympathize with our weaknesses, because He has been tempted in every way, just as we are tempted (4:15)



The Qualifications of the High Priest (5:1-4)

- He was appointed by God (5:5-6)
- Through *suffering, agony* and *temptations* of man He is qualified as a perfect representative (5:7-9)
- He became a source of *eternal salvation* for all who obey Him (5:9)
- God has designated Him high priest “in the order of Melchizedek”(5:10)



Christ's Qualifications for the High Priesthood (5:5-10)

- 5:7 refers to the Lord's prayer in Gethsemane (Luke 22:42-44)
- Learning *obedience* through *suffering* as having perfected the Lord Jesus
- "*Made perfect*" expresses the idea of *fulfillment*

Third Warning

Dullness of Hearing (5:11-14)



- The first warning: *Danger of Neglect*
- The second warning: *Danger of Unbelief*
- The third warning: *Danger of Immaturity*
 1. This is due to dullness of hearing (understanding)



Third Warning

Dullness of Hearing (5:11-14)

- Hearing and obeying closely related
- St. Paul is not concerned with their intellect but with their disobedience
- Obedience leads to understanding
- Demanding understanding before obeying limits the spiritual growth
- Disobedience leads to spiritual infancy



Third Warning

Dullness of Hearing (5:11-14)

- Unskilled regarding righteousness
- True believer is trained by obedience to distinguish good and evil
- St. Paul wants Christians to know how to make the tough choices between:
 1. Eternal salvation and temporary comfort
 2. Painful obedience and the path of least resistance



Spiritual Maturity

- Reason of use: Christians develop finely-tuned spiritual understanding by the discipline of constant use
- Exercised: By obedience through suffering
- Discern: Sign of maturity is the ability to distinguish and make wise choices



Conclusion

- Analyze each of the high priest's qualifications (5:1-4) and identify in what ways the Lord Jesus is superior
- In what sense did the Lord Jesus "learn obedience from what He suffered"?
- How does a person become mature in God's Word according to verse 14? What can you do to grow in maturity?