

Image: I wasn't a trendsetter growing up. I always kind of came in on the end of the style curve. But, trends change, don't they. We look back at some things that used to be popular and think, "what were they thinking?" Here's a few things that, thankfully, time has passed by. [Slides]. But there are other things that seem to stand the test of time and never go out of style. They seem to transcend time. Let me offer some things which, in my opinion will never go out of style. [Slides].

Need: But what of the more profound things in life? He's going to begin this section with the words, "**Such a high priest meets our need.**" So Jesus was better than the Law and the priests that represented it. But Hebrews was written some 2000 years ago...times change. Is His mediation and sacrifice still good for us today? After 2000 years? Is Jesus a fad that we've grown out of as we have progressed through time? Or is He still the best?

Context: In this section of Hebrews he's going to offer up a kind of summary of what has been said thus far as he begins to transition deeper into his argument.

Preview: So are we deceiving ourselves by following an out of date Savior or can we still base our lives on Christ and His sacrifice?

I. Jesus is holy [Finish inductively at B]

A. He was holy

1. "**holy**" – possessing morally superior qualities to human.
2. "**Innocent**" – guiltless. More than just "not being bad" to having no guilt. *me as a kid.*
3. "**Undefiled**" – untainted as it pertains to sacrifices.
4. "**Separate from sinners**" – related to the following term. He's in a position where we can't go on our own. Stands above us.
5. "**Exalted above heavens**" – exists in the very presence of God.
6. "**No need to offer sacrifices**" – because of his moral perfection, He wasn't subject to same regulations of sacrifice. *HP offering bull for his sin on Day of Atonement. On other days he still had responsibility to maintain a clean stance whenever he sinned.*

B. But His holiness didn't undermine His human-ness

1. He entered our state of weakness (**2:7, 17**)
2. Perfected (completed) through suffering (**2:10**)
3. Became our brother (**2:11**)
4. Knows what it's like to be tempted and can sympathize (**2:18; 4:15; 5:7-8**)
5. Poured out His heart to God in the Garden (**4:14**)
6. Offered up His life to God (**7:27**)
7. Lived among sinners, received them, ate with them, known as a friend of them – all while separate from them.

C. We're still secure because His sacrifice is eternally accepted

1. Jesus' sacrifice for us is legitimate because it was offered by a human for humans and was offered by God Himself (**2:14**).
2. Our salvation is based on a sacrifice...Jesus ("**Offered Himself**"). If Jesus can never sin...that is, be eternally holy, then the basis of our salvation is forever.

II. Jesus is a legitimate priest [Finish inductively at B]

A. He is not like the weak priests that went before Him

1. They sinned and had to offer sacrifices for themselves and the people regularly (*background of sacrifices, consecration of priest, Day of Atonement*)
2. Not Jesus. Because He never sinned He never needed to offer sacrifices for Himself.

B. Jesus' priesthood is forever

1. He is not appointed in weakness only to be replaced by death (v. **27a; 7:23** – *Josephus, 83 HP from Aaron to AD 70*).
2. But, on oath from God, having completed perfectly the task to which He was called, He finished the job forever.

C. We're still secure because our priest is forever

Hebrews 7:26-28

1. We don't have to worry about a new priest coming in or God changing the rules. He made an oath that Jesus is the mediator forever.
2. If our priest can never die, then the sacrifice that He has made will always stand.

III. And so we need nothing else. Jesus is our all in all, for all time. That's why He's superior and can never be outdone. He'll never go out of style.

A. His sacrifice is eternally holy and sufficient.

B. "**Once for all time**" – There is never a need for another. His sacrifice is "**made perfect forever.**" There won't be another because this one is still doing the job...and will forever.

Conc: Can we still base our lives on the sacrifice of this Jesus who lived 2000 years ago? I mean come on, what can stand the test of that much time? Answer: Yes we can. His sacrifice is holy because He was holy...and thus, always acceptable to God as payment for our sin. If Jesus can never sin then His sacrifice is eternally acceptable and forever valid. If He can never die then He always lives to plead His sacrifice's sufficiency in God's presence on our behalf. So even today, He's still the One. To the author's words, "**Such a high priest meets our need**" perhaps we can add "still."

The world tells us we're old fashioned for following after an archaic religion with a 2000 year old figure head. but Jesus isn't like big poofy hair that goes out of style after a few years. He's more like blue jeans and ice cream, that stand the test of time forever. You still can't beat Jesus because His sacrifice is forever.