

# Hebrews 7: 20-25

## Continued

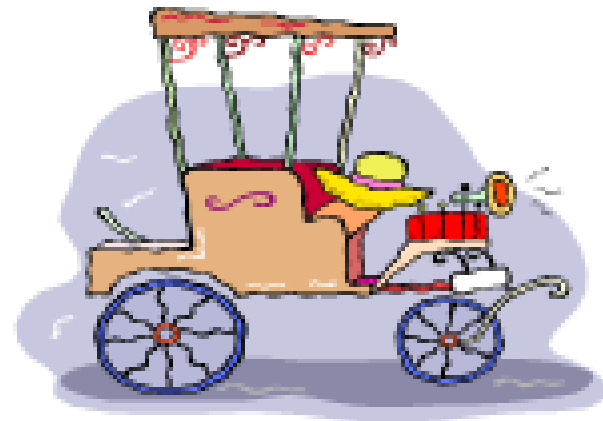
Grace Doctrine Church – Tampa Bay

Lesson 04102011



# Worship in the Word

# Things Don't Last Forever



# Totally Guaranteed

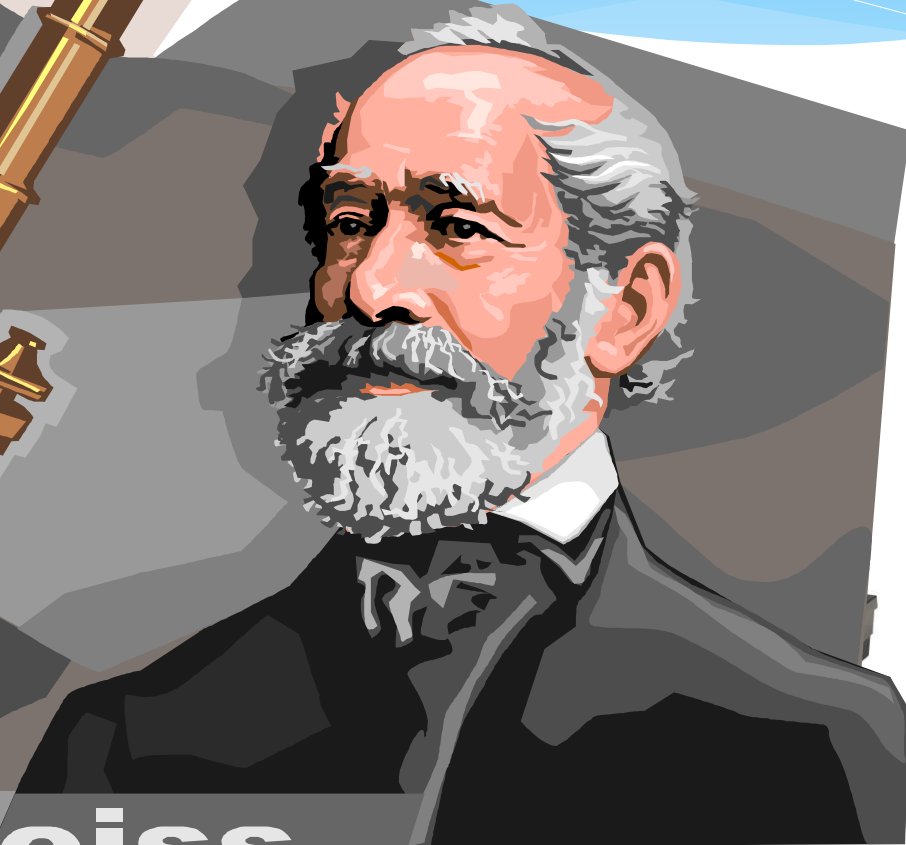
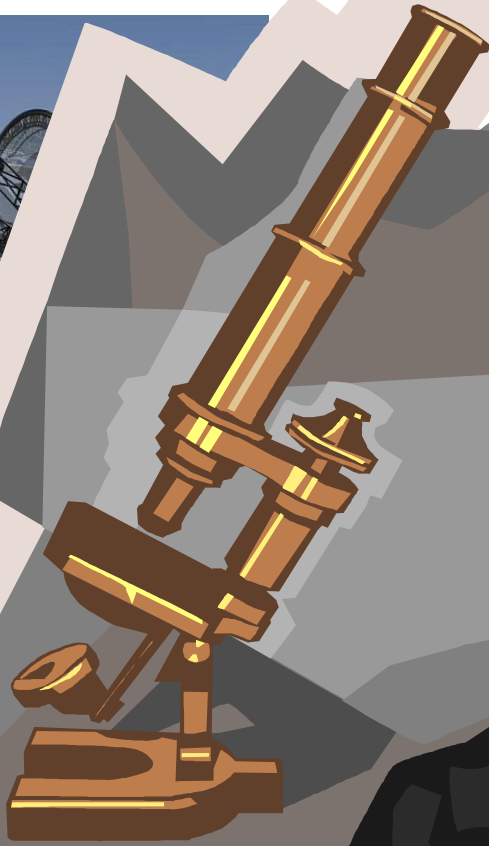
## Hebrews 7: 20-25

- \* 18 For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness
- \* 19 (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

# The Big Picture



The European Extremely Large Telescope (E-ELT) project is the largest funded project in the world. With a diameter of 39 meters, it is adaptive from the start and will be one hundred times more powerful than today's largest optical telescopes, expected by late 2020. The European Southern Observatory announced that the telescope will be located at Cerro Armazones, a 3060-meter peak in Chile's Atacama Desert.



## Carl Zeiss

# Totally Guaranteed

## Hebrews 7: 20-25

- \* And inasmuch as it was not without an oath (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him, "THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND, 'YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER'"); so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

# The Guarantee of a Better Covenant

- \* Verses 20 -22 He has become the “guarantee”; *so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.*
- \* Verses 23-25 He holds His priesthood permanently; *because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently*
- \* Therefore the salvation He offers is also permanent.

# Our Two Main Thots...

- \* Salvation is Guaranteed
- \* Salvation is Permanent

# Guarantee

- \* ἔγγυος
- \* egguos; from ἔγγυη egguē (a security); under good security (adj.), guarantee (noun): - guarantee (1). NASEC
- \* In this verse, the writer states the proposition which he wishes to prove, namely, that the New Testament in Jesus' blood is better than and takes the place of the First Testament in animal blood. His argument here is that Jesus is the surety of a better covenant because God took an oath that His priesthood would be an everlasting one. Jesus is the guarantee or pledge of a better covenant or testament.

# Onesimus' Debt

- \* Phm 1:10 I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment,
- \* Phm 1:11 who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.
- \* (Phm 1:18) But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account;
- \* (Phm 1:19) I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand, I will repay it (not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well).

# In Perspective: Old vs New Covenant

- \* The Old Covenant – The Law
- \* The New Covenant – The Gospel of Grace

# Promises We Can't Guarantee

- \* Exodus 24:7 Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!"
- \* And then Israel began to disobey, and they failed and there was no co-signer, no surety, no guarantee. And they went bankrupt and they went to jail...! Incarcerated in Babylon

# The NC and the Surety Guaranteed

- \* In the NC, the Gospel is quite different. It comes with a **Surety**. Jesus Christ has co-signed by His sacrificial death on the cross.
- \* When Jesus is your High Priest, when He is your Savior, He is your Surety before God the Father.

# The inviolability of God's oath 7:20-22

- \* Verses 20-25 draw out the pastoral implications of the conclusion that the writer reached in verses 18-19.
- \* 7:20-21 Another oath from God (Psa. 110:4) launched Messiah's priesthood. The Levitical priesthood had no such origin, another indication of its inferiority.

# The inviolability of God's oath 7:20-22

- \* 7:22 Because God promised on oath to install Messiah permanently as our priest, the writer could say that Jesus is the guarantee of a better covenant. Since the old priesthood was the heart of the Old Covenant, and God terminated both of them, a new priesthood must accompany the New Covenant that is superior to the Old Covenant. Since the new Priest has come, so must the New Covenant have come (Luke 22:20). This is the first mention in the epistle of the word "covenant" that will play a major role in the writer's argument to follow.

# διαθήκη

- \* "Hebrews develops the theme of the new covenant more fully than any other NT writer, the epistle accounting for just over half the occurrences of diatheke ["covenant] in the NT."

Ellingworth, Paul. *The Epistle to the Hebrews: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, p. 386. The New International Greek Testament Commentary series. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.; and Carlisle, England: Paternoster Press, 1993.

# διαθήκη

- \* The writer used this word (Gr. diatheke) 17 times, far more than it occurs in any other New Testament book. He preferred this word to the more common syntheke ("covenant") evidently because syntheke suggests an agreement made on relatively equal terms. Diatheke has the idea of a more absolute will, such as a last will and testament.

# The mortality of the Levitical priests 7:23-25

- \* 7:23-24 The Levitical priests had to succeed one another because they kept dying, but Jesus Christ needs no successor because He will not die.
- \* 7:25 The fact that Christ will not die and need replacement by another priest means that He can see His work of delivering His people through to the end. He can deliver completely (better than "forever," v. 25) in the sense of seeing us through to the realization of our full salvation, our rest (inheritance) in God's presence (see 1:14).

# The Eternality of our Hope

- \* Our trials and temptations need not separate us from our inheritance since Jesus Christ can continue to support us by providing mercy and grace
- \* (4:14-16) all the way to our ultimate reward. What a comfort and assurance it is to realize that Jesus Christ Himself is praying for us constantly!

# Romans 8:33-34

- \* Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;
- \* who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
- \* Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

# Romans 8:33-34



- \* "It is important to emphasize this, for the character of our Lord's intercession has at times been grotesquely misrepresented in popular Christian thought. He is not to be thought of 'as an orante, standing ever before the Father with outstretched arms, like the figures in the mosaics of the catacombs, and with strong crying and tears pleading our cause in the presence of a reluctant God; but as a throned Priest-King, asking what He will from a Father who always hears and grants His request.'

**FF Bruce, p. 155. His quotation is from H. B. Swete, *The Ascended Christ*, p. 95.**

## Romans 8:33-34

Despite these exhortations to faithfulness and warnings against unfaithfulness [in 6:4-6], Hebrews does not base the believer's assurance on works. The basis of ongoing assurance is Christ's high-priestly work of intercession. In Hebrews 'salvation' is presented as a future eschatological inheritance (1:14; 5:9; 9:28). There is, nevertheless, a definite sense in which the community has already begun to participate in salvation as a result of the obedience and sacrificial death of Christ and his subsequent exaltation.

See Hebrews 2:3-4; 6:4-5, 9

# The Keeping Covenant

- \* As the Apostle Paul exclaims in Romans 8:1,2 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.
- \* The author of Hebrews instructs and encourages the Jewish believers of the proper perspective towards Christ and His rightful position as High Priest.
- \* Remember the perspective of looking through a microscope versus a giant telescope!

# Keeping Hope Alive

1. Hope is confidence of reality before the reality occurs.
2. This is why elpis is not only translated “expectation” or “prospect” but “confidence” as well.
3. Once the reality occurs the expectation or hope or confidence is replaced by the reality.
4. Therefore hope is confident anticipation prior to the reality of fulfillment.
5. In time every believer, because of the judicial imputation of divine righteousness, immediately possesses the first of a series of hopes.
6. This hope of confident anticipation is based on the reality of the possession of God’s very own righteousness.
7. There is an affinity, then, between blessing from the justice of God and divine righteousness.
8. At maturity every believer has an additional hope or confident anticipation.
9. For the possession of divine blessing through the real imputation of maturity, this anticipates the whole concept of a fortiori of the future, the second a fortiori of blessing.

# Three Doors of Hope



OT Door



The Church Age Door



Personal Eschatology



Let Us Pray