

## Hebrews 7:14-16

### Power of An Endless Life

Everything about Jesus is new and different, for the power of His endless life alters the whole of creation... it skews the entire fabric of reality around the cross and all He accomplished there. He will never fade away nor will He ever cease to be everything He was and is. He is the bedrock of all things; and He brings that newness and its eternal foundations to bear upon the question of His priesthood. Which is itself a declaration of His supremacy over the one unanswerable question and the one unavoidable reality of our existence: Death. We all seek power over it, but it looms like an obelisk in the center of our mental landscapes... It is the exclamation point of our mortality. But this obelisk itself dies in the shadow of the cross, and by the hand of the unparalleled priest who holds the power of endless life!

#### I. **NEW PRIEST, NEW POWER, NEW PROMISE**

- A. A new tribe as priests
- B. A new altar from which to serve

C. An eternal endless priesthood, given to the ONE man Jesus Christ.

1. He will never be replaced, for no other could do what He has already done. Nor could there ever be a need!
2. He will never be supplanted or defeated. He has already defeated our greatest enemy.
3. He will never fail in His duty, He can be trusted to fulfill all that He has promised both to us and to God.
4. He will intercede on our behalf for all of eternity.
5. He Has secured and will continue to secure our promised possession according to His riches in glory.

D. A new holiness within

E. A better sacrifice offered

F. A better hope secured

## II. **SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHER EFFORTS**

A. Contrary to the old law - the old law dealt with death and was powerless to stop its ravages. It was itself subject to the law of death, since all who served it and all who ministered before the altar, were themselves mortal and subject to the

frailty of the flesh. But Christ's new and powerful priesthood has also been displayed as triumphant over the empty and false beliefs of the occultism in the new age

B. The Old Law

1. concerned the flesh
2. It was about commands to obey
3. limited by our ability

C. The new age occultism

1. Concerned with denying the truth of our existence; it pretends to reveal hidden knowledge and secret truth that is a web of lies so finely laid that it captures all who enter seeking to escape.
2. Is about the imagined power we have to alter what God has declared
3. Borrows temporary power from the enemy of our souls, and deceives all who dabble in its darkness, which masquerades as light...

D. The Gospel Covenant trumps both the old law and the new age

1. It concerns the spirit and soul; and is based upon the truth which Creator God has shown

in His word and in the very fabric of all creation.

2. It is about

a. Love in which to walk

*1 John 4:19 (NKJV) <sup>19</sup> We love Him because He first loved us.*

b. A relationship in which to grow

*John 15:9 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup> “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.*

c. Truth revealed by the creator of all things

*John 14:6 (NKJV) <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

d. Forgiveness and wholeness given to cover our brokenness and guilt

**Hebrews 10:12–18**

e. Inclusion in the family of God, purchased by the blood of our Lord and elder brother Jesus Christ

*Romans 8:15–17 (NKJV) <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”*

*<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—*

*heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

3. secured by the unanswerable power of His resurrection, endless life, His person and all that He has already accomplished

**1Corinthians 15:20–26**

### **III. THE POWERLESS**

A. Both the Old law and the old lies wearing new faces are powerless to actually change anything. Our entire world is sick with the effects of their powerless efforts

1. Every addiction known to man is nothing but an attempt to escape
  - a. Drugs
  - b. Alcohol
  - c. Sex
  - d. Power and money
  - e. Gambling
  - f. Entertainment
  - g. Amusements
  - h. The list could go on and on...
2. They promise relief, but only trap the addict deeper in the cycle of guilt and shame. We see the effects everywhere

- a. Violence
  - b. Homelessness
  - c. Sexual perversions of every possible stripe
  - d. Pressure from the culture to be silent "or else"
3. They weave lies and eat souls; all the while pretending that the real deliverance, offered in Christ is the lie... it is an upside down world of Alice's worst nightmares and we live in it every single day!
- B. The old law was powered by a failed desire to remove guilt. A guilt so woven into its structure that the priests themselves had to atone for their own sin before they could offer continual sacrifices. They were constantly demonstrating their own failure to atone for sin, as they had to continually offer more and more on behalf of the people. It required the death of animals, for the blood of mankind was ruined by the fall and unacceptable. And even though animals were better than human, they were not enough to remove our guilt

*Hebrews 10:4 (NKJV) <sup>4</sup> For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*

C. ... It was a constant struggle trying (and failing) to stay ahead of the guilt our sin piled up.

*Hebrews 10:11 (NKJV) <sup>11</sup> And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.*

D. And the priests were themselves trapped and ruined by their own sin, just as we all are... But they at least acknowledged the truth of the problem...

E. The new age occult draws its power from the bold use of falsehood. It denies the truth of what we are. It denies the problem from which we need deliverance so bases its entire paradigm on the boldest (and oldest) of lies... it whispers we are gods... it whispers we are fine just as we are and all we need is to learn to accept the truth of our own power... And that lie wears many faces

1. Wiccans believing they harness the "good magic" of the earth
2. Adopting eastern philosophies and practices such as using crystals, incense, spirit guides, astral projection and other cultic aids and "powers"

3. Catholic constellations of priests, icons and relics serving the same purposes
4. Darker demonic and occult rituals which are now gaining traction among the young, who follow the cult of Hollywood and the music industry into every dark hole imaginable...
5. We are raising a generation who toy with the edges of sanity having eroded their souls in virtual playgrounds that allow them to experiment without guilt in every vice ever imagined... but the imagined METAverse can only satisfy the dark desires of the flesh for so long... and the violence and madness bleeds into the lives of the players, their families and the world at large...
6. Even in the church these things crop up with word of faith preachers, prosperity gospel proclaimers and scripture re-writing pretenders...
  - a. Instead of crystals they offer prayer hankies, the promise of "seed money" and the lure of perfectly capped teeth
  - b. Instead of incense, they master the electric light show, smoke and mirrors and



the hypnotic power of repetitive music coupled with ecstatic dance ...

- c. Rather than spirit guides and astral projection, they are "slain in the spirit" and proclaim new visions granted them by angels...
- 7. The lie that threads all of this together is simple and profoundly attractive - "you are just fine how you are, and if you want something different you have only to reach out and take it, for you have the power to shape the universe within you..."

#### **IV. THE POWER OF TRUTH IS LIMITLESS**

- A. God has declared to us all that is needed to be known of life and truth.

*John 1:17 (NKJV) <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

- B. The power which drives the new Gospel covenant is the resurrection of Jesus Christ
  - 1. Impossible from every conceivable angle, and yet undeniably true
  - 2. The mark and standard of God's full and total acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus in our place

*Romans 4:23–25 (NKJV) <sup>23</sup> Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, <sup>24</sup> but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.*

3. The promise of our final victory over death

**1Corinthians 15:54–58**

4. Access to the throne of God, accepted in God, through our ONE mediator Jesus Christ

*Romans 8:34 (NKJV) <sup>34</sup> Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

5. The certainty of our adoption into and inclusion in the family of God with all the rights and privileges belonging to Jesus Himself!

**Ephesians 1:3–6**

C. The simplicity of the gospel covenant cannot be overstated!

1. Confess your guilt before God
2. Cry for mercy from His hand
  - a. Mercy is undeserved

- b. God is good and willing
  - c. We are powerless
  - d. He is all-powerful
3. The contract simply put is this:
- a. We bring our guilt and lay our sin at His feet...
  - b. He provides everything else.
  - c. And since we cannot even do the one thing that is our part, He changes our hearts and makes us see truth and cry for the mercy we know we do not deserve, but trust that He will provide.

D. The Gospel covenant has

- 1. actually removed our guilt

*Acts 5:30–31 (NKJV) <sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. <sup>31</sup> Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.*

*Hebrews 10:10 (NKJV) <sup>10</sup> By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

- 2. A priest without sin, who has no guilt to atone for

*Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV) <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

3. The priest HAS actually removed the curse of sin, and the power of it over us has been broken!

*Galatians 3:13 (NKJV) <sup>13</sup> Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),*

4. This new and better priest offered a new and better sacrifice, so profoundly perfect and acceptable in the sight of God that He ended the sacrificial system FOREVER! Never will it be reinstated...

*Hebrews 9:11–12 (NKJV) <sup>11</sup> But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. <sup>12</sup> Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

E. The gospel covenant is the demonstration of God's faithfulness to His own word and glory. He

accepted the sacrifice of His Son on our behalf and gave to us the righteousness that Jesus Himself possessed.

*Hebrews 9:14–15 (NKJV) <sup>14</sup> how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? <sup>15</sup> And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*

1. He did this because of the promises He made to Himself before the foundations of the world were laid.
2. He did this because His forbearance had put His own righteousness under attack
3. He did this because Jesus completed the work of redemption
4. He did this because He loves His children
5. He did this because Jesus deserves the full reward of His own suffering