

071424

## Made Perfect Together

Hebrews 7:20-29

Bernard Bell



### Background

Though both the Law and the Levitical priesthood were gracious gifts from God to his people, they were ultimately weak and useless. They didn't work. They didn't bring perfection. But now in the risen and ascended Jesus we have just the right priest that we need. He has been made perfect, and in that lies our hope that we too will be made perfect. What is perfection for Jesus and for us?

### Sermon Text: *Hebrews 7:20-29 (NIV)*

*20 And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, 21 but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:*

*“The Lord has sworn  
and will not change his mind:  
‘You are a priest forever.’ ”*

*22 Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant. 23 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 truly 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 in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.*

## Discussion Questions

### 1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?

### 2. Sunday questions

- a. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?
- b. Jesus “*lives*” forever, literally “*abides*” forever. Death cannot touch Him, so His priesthood is “*permanent*.” The resurrection of Jesus stands at the center of our faith (along with the crucifixion), and is the reason that Jesus’s priesthood is permanent. Reflect on the resurrection and share your favorite part of the resurrection narrative as told in the Gospels (answers could be: the empty tomb, Mary’s encounter, the appearance to the 11, the Emmaus Road, the appearance to Thomas, the Great Commission, etc).
- c. Jesus is always interceding for us (v 25)! “He puts Himself between us and God... and is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters.” Respond to those good news statements.
- d. What is perfection for us? Bernard said it is, “To be the human beings He designed us to be, which is to faithfully follow Jesus... including journeying together with others.” What does faithfully following Jesus look like for you this week?