

**Warm-up**

Many people carry the pain of a broken relationship. How would you explain to a friend that God will never, ever abandon or abuse His relationship with someone who trusts Him?

- ▶ *Do you sometimes doubt that God's love is unconditional?*

**Indestructible** (vs. 14-17)

*"...not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life..."* (v. 16)

When I was a kid *Superman* was the epitome of a superhero; someone who could not be killed and would not tolerate evil. If *Superman* was on your side you were assured of protection and deliverance. Who is your *superhero* today? I think that some people silently tell themselves that *they* are. Can a man really be a self-made man? And even if he could, could he save himself and grant himself eternal life? And where would he find the peace that passes all understanding or the wisdom and insight that God possesses? And could he really stand up under all the "schemes of the devil" (Eph. 6:11), conquering supernatural powers?

Our Lord came from the lineage of Judah, and is linked to Melchizedek (see vs. 14, 15). His priesthood is not confined or limited to physical lineage, but is directly from God who is eternal. His power is unquenchable; no power in heaven or on earth can stand against Him!

2 Chron. 20:6, *"...O LORD, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You."*

Believers have this power, even eternal life, in Christ!

- He lives in us (Rom. 8:10).
- He is our hope (Col. 1:27).

*Nothing* can stand against God's power in a believer!

- Satan can't (Luke 10:19). He tried and failed (see Isaiah 14:13-14). He's defeated (Col. 2:15).
- Man can't (2 Cor. 10:5). Man's strategies are destined to fail.
- God is for us, so nothing can stand against us (Rom. 8:31).
- We can climb mountains, leap over walls (2 Sam. 22:30).
- We can conquer every enemy through Christ (Rom. 8:35-37).
- Nothing is impossible for God (Matt. 19:26)!

- ▶ Jesus lives forever; He offers a better hope. *He's my Hero.*

**Replacement Value** (vs. 18-22)

*"...on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God."* (v. 19)

Do you generally view replacement parts as better as or worse than the original parts? Can you envision God deciding that the original plan He made to make me holy (the Old Covenant) could be improved with a better plan (New Covenant)? What caused the "original part" (plan) not to function as designed? (Hint: operator error!)

Here's what makes God's "replacement plan" more successful than the original:

- Better hope (warranty). *"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast..."* (Heb. 6:19).
- Stronger parts. *We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us* (Phil. 4:13).
- Better made. *Jesus lives forever! When our life is hidden with Him* (Col. 3:3) *we never wear out!*
- No cost to you (Eph. 2:8-9). But it cost God something! .

- ▶ *Accept the Dealer's offer to install "genuine replacement parts"! There is no charge; you're under warranty!*

**Warranty Service** (vs. 23-28)

*"...He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."* (v. 25)

If your car were to break down on a lonely country road, maybe because you did something stupid (like ignored the dashboard warning light or didn't have enough oil), you would immediately consider who to call for help. There could be the best emergency roadside service crew in the country 10 miles away, but if you didn't call them you probably wouldn't get help. (If a Good Samaritan with a tool kit happened upon you I'd call him an angel.)

Do you realize that God offers 24/7 roadside (real life) service? Do you have His phone number? It's 5015. Psalm 50:15, *"Call upon me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you and you will honor Me."* You can even place this on speed dial! But notice that God instructs us to honor Him when we call on Him. Otherwise we're in danger of issuing an "empty cry" (see Job 35:13 and Psalm 66:18).

*"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."* (Jer. 33:3)

When I fail or break down, or take the wrong road or run out of gas, His warranty plan kicks in! We have a direct line to God – 5015. Jesus always answers; He is constantly talking to the Father about my needs.

*"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"* (Rom. 8:34 NASB)

In case you're worried about a bad signal, God has that covered also.

*"In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;<sup>27</sup> and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.* (Rom. 8:26-27)

With Jesus as my High Priest I have permanent access to God the Father. His wisdom and His Spirit equip me to glorify Him and serve Him, forever!

Do you still need more evidence? Check out verse 28, the last verse in this chapter.

*"For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the **word of the oath**, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever."*

Is God's word credible in your view? Is His oath dependable? Read Hebrews 6:17-18,

*"In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed (guaranteed) with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us."*

God cannot lie (see Num. 23:19); therefore I'm encouraged and have hope. God's promise and His oath are unchangeable. He is and forever will be faithful (see 2 Tim. 2:13).

► *When you call on God to help you He responds when your call is sincere. And He uses "replacement parts" that are better than you had before! He sits on the throne and "makes all things new" (Rev. 21:5).*

**Your position in Christ came with a relationship with God.** You've been changed by the power of an indestructible life! *"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away"* (Rev. 21:4). **Hallelujah!**

### Group Discussion

1. Name some false "heroes" that attract the worship of people today. What (or who) do people believe can save them? (vs. 14-17)
2. Do you have any broken or worn out parts that need replacing? Where should you go? What's the cost? (vs. 18-22)
3. Read the notes again on "Warranty Service". What's the best part of God's warranty for you today? (vs. 23-28).

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**NEXT TIME: Lesson 3: PURIFIED / Promises – Hebrews Chapter 8**