**Jesus Christ our High Priest – Heb. 4:14**

Let’s set our minds again on heavenly things today. Let’s think about heaven where the Lord Jesus Christ is seated in heavenly glory & majesty

Heb. 3:1 – *therefore holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle & High Priest of our confession*

**What we confess is what we believe – what we believe is what we confess**

**Today are you continuing to make the good confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God our Lord, Savior & High Priest?**

**Overview of Heb. 3 - 4**

**Warning** – Heb. 3:15 – do not live in unbelief when you hear the gospel – “*Today if you hear His voice do not harden your hearts”*

**Exhortation** – Heb. 4:11 – believe the gospel & live in gospel rest – “*be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall”*

**Encouragement** – Heb. 4:14 – live by faith in Jesus Christ our great high priest maintaining a confident confession of faith in Him – “*let us hold fast our confession*”

**Focal truth: Jesus Christ our Great High Priest is in heaven therefore believers maintain a lifelong confident confession of faith in the world**

**Observations**

1. **Jesus Christ the Son of God is the greatest high priest of all high priests 4:14**

*Therefore, since we have a great high priest – the Lord Jesus Christ is the* ***GREATEST HIGH PRIEST! HE IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST!***

1. He our great High Priest – greater than Aaron’s earthly priesthood
2. He is our great High Priest – He is alive today in heaven doing His priestly work
3. He is our great High Priest – He has a more powerful, excellent name than Aaron
4. He is our great High Priest – He was both the sacrifice for sin & the priest to offer the sacrifice for sin
5. He is our great High Priest – He was appointed by God a priest of the

 Melchizedek order of King – Priests

1. He is our great High Priest – His priesthood is eternal & unending

**Col. 1:18 – He is the head of the body, the church and He is the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything**

The song says: there is no one higher no one greater than our God – Jesus Christ the greatest high priest & OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

1. **Jesus Christ the believer’s great High Priest has ascended forever into the heaven of heavens 4:14**

*who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God*

1. He is the greatest high priest because He passed through the heavens

“He passed through the heavens – created time & space – not into them”

OUR HIGH PRIEST IS NOW ALIVE BEYOND SPACE & TIME

**He is now doing His priestly work for the church in heaven**

1. He is the greatest high priest because He has ascended to the heaven of heavens

Heb. 1:3 – He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

Heb. 6:20 – Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek

Heb. 8:1 – we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens

Heb. 9:24 – Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us

1. He is the greatest high priest because He is the God – Man high priest

*Jesus, Son of God*

**Jesus** – born Jesus – the Savior of the world – fully human

**Son of God** – the eternal Son of God – the only begotten of the Father – fully God

1. He is the greatest high priest because of the glory & power of His ascension to the heaven of heavens
* He ascended taking death & the devil captive forever – Ps. 68:18 – you have ascended on high you have led captive your captives
* He ascended destroying & spoiling the devil’s plans & purposes – Col. 2:15 – he spoiled principalities & power
* He ascended far above the created order of time & space to fill all things Eph. 4:10 – He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things
* He ascended & blessed the church with the presence of the Holy Spirit
* He ascended & gave spiritual gifts to the church to advance the gospel
1. **Jesus Christ the believer’s great high priest in heaven produces a confident confession of Him until the end of life on the earth 4:14**

*let us hold fast our confession… -* Our confession is the confession of the gospel

**Hold fast – keep carefully, to hold tightly**

1. We hold on to things because it is easy to: - *let us hold fast our confession*

Loose them

Forget them

Neglect them

Robbed of them

Shaken from them

1. Many confess to believe in Jesus Christ but fall away from following Christ revealing that they are not saved but lost

Heb. 3:1 – take care, that there not be in anyone of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God

Heb. 3:7 – Today if you hear His voice do not harden your heart

Heb. 4:2 – for indeed, we have had the good news preached to us, just as they, but the word they heard did not profit them, it was not united by faith in those who heard

1. Believers maintain their confession of faith in Jesus Christ to the end of life

Heb. 3:6 – we are God’s house, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end

Heb. 3:14 – for we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end

**The Great Lord high priest Jesus Christ produces confident confession of Him until the end of life!** In sickness – in persecution – in trials – in the world – in loneliness – in happiness

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. **The believer’s high priest is the greatest of all high priests!**
2. **The Lord Jesus ascended to the heaven of heavens as the greatest of high priests!**
3. **Confess your faith in all of circumstances to the greatest of high priests!**
4. **Keep confessing He is Lord high priest regardless of your life condition**

**To the praise of the glory of His Grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**