

Lesson 5: Hebrews 4:14–5:10

Discussion Questions

What did you notice about these verses when you heard Cliff tell them?

This section of Hebrews (along with other sections of the letter) focuses on a comparison between Jesus and Israel's sacrificial system, specifically the work of the high priest. Cliff notes that comparisons can function in different ways (for example, bad compared to bad, good compared to good, or bad compared to good), and he argues that we should understand this section as a comparison between a good thing (the mortal high priests) and a better thing (Jesus as high priest).

- How have you typically understood this comparison in Hebrews? Do you agree or disagree with Cliff? Why do you think that way?

Cliff made an attempt to explain what it means when the author of Hebrews says that Jesus “learned obedience through suffering” and was “made perfect.” As he does so, he’s wrestling with affirmations about Jesus’s divinity and sinlessness and the text’s implication that he needed to learn obedience as part of becoming perfect.

- How would you explain these verses?

Immediately after saying that Jesus learned “obedience” through what he suffered, the author concludes that we will receive eternal salvation from Jesus if we “obey” him.

- What is the connection between Jesus’s obedience (which results in his perfection) and our obedience (which results in our eternal salvation)?

How does this passage influence your prayer life? What does it encourage you to do more of? What does it challenge you to change?