

His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful (3) **The Author of Eternal Salvation**

In the book of Hebrews, the Lord Jesus is presented as superior in His Sonship, in His service and in His sacrifice. He is supreme in His divine priestly character and work and His sacrifice has accomplished what all other sacrifices, either individually or collectively could not do.

The writer of the epistle reminds us that Christ glorified not Himself to be made a high priest, but the heavenly Father, who declared concerning Him, *thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee*", also declared concerning Him, *"thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec"* (Heb. 5:5-6).

Melchisedec, was a priest of the most high God, who met Abraham with bread and wine, after Abraham had returned from battle (Gen. 13:18-20). It is interesting to note, in this connection, that each Lord's Day, believers around the world commemorate with bread and wine, the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over sin, death and hell.

There is no record given of Melchisedec's parents, of his birth, or of his death (Heb. 7:3). The Lord Jesus has no beginning and no ending. His priesthood is an unchanging priesthood. That is, that is not passed down from generation to generation. He is not made a priest after the law of a carnal commandment (not on the basis of genealogy, or legal requirement), but after the power of and endless life (Heb. 7:16).

Melchisedec is called King of righteousness and King of Salem, which is King of peace (Heb. 7:2). The Lord Jesus is called the righteous judge (2nd Tim. 3:8). Zechariah prophesied of Christ, the King coming, and described Him as righteous and having salvation (Zech. 9:9). Isaiah prophesied that His name would be called *"Prince of peace"* (Isa. 9:6). The psalmist wrote, *"mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other"* (Ps. 85:10). Truly, righteousness and peace, combine in the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Having established the fitness of the priesthood of the Lord Jesus, the writer of the epistle to the Hebrews affirmed, *"and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him"* (Heb. 5:9). The expression, *"Author of eternal salvation"*, is a divine title of the Lord Jesus.

The phrase, *"being made perfect"*, refers to the fact that the Lord Jesus was fully fitted and equipped to provide salvation, through the accomplishment of all of the will of God concerning Him. This includes His willing subjection and obedience to the Father who had sent Him, culminating in His sacrificial, atoning death on the cross of Calvary.

The title, *"Author of eternal salvation"*, indicates to us that the risen, exalted and glorified Lord Jesus Christ is the source of eternal life on the basis of His reconciling, redeeming work on the cross. The word *"Author"*, teaches us that He is not only the source of eternal salvation, but He Himself is our salvation. Peter stated, *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12).

The phrase *"eternal salvation"*, reminds us of the efficacy and value of the work that He has accomplished in His once for all sacrifice for sins. John wrote, *"whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (Jn. 3:16).

In chapter 12 of the book of Hebrews, we are exhorted to cast off any weight that hinders us, and any sin that might impede our progress in the race before us.

The race that is set before us is a divinely appointed path, a journey of faith, unique to each child of God, yet pressing toward the same common goal, the same mark, the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:14), until at last we are at home with the Lord Jesus.

As we run the race, actually marathon, we are encouraged to look unto Jesus, who is referred to here as, *“the author and finisher of our faith”* (Heb. 12:1-2). This is yet another of His divine titles, that brings before us His office as our Great High Priest. The phrase, *“looking off unto Jesus”*, suggests the idea of fixing our gaze firmly upon Him as the ultimate goal to be achieved.

The word, *“author”*, as it is used here, has been translated by some to mean, *“pioneer”*. Some others use the word, *“leader”*. It is quite interesting to note that in the original text, it comes from the same word as *“Prince”*. Peter spoke before the religious leaders of Israel, concerning the Lord Jesus, *“Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins”* (Acts 5:31).

As the *“Author of our faith”*, He is the supreme object of our faith and has provided us with the perfect example. As the Son, He was faithful over all His house (Heb. 3:6). In the face of persecution and reproach, He remained faithful to His God. He could confidently pray to His heavenly Father, *“I have glorified thee on the earth, I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do”* (Jn. 17:4).

In the divine title, *“Author and Finisher of our faith”*, the Lord Jesus is described as both the originator and the completer of our faith. As the *“author”*, He initiates faith in believers, and as the *“finisher”*, He brings it to divine completion, or full maturity. While we are here in the body, we walk by faith, not by sight. Soon we shall be absent from the body and present with the Lord (2nd Cor. 5:6-8). Then faith will have reached its glorious consummation, when we see Him as He is (1st Jn. 3:2).

The writer of the Hebrew epistle says of Him, *“who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God”*. The joy that was set before Him, included the accomplishment of the will of God. It is written prophetically of Him in the psalms, *“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea thy law is within my heart”* (Ps. 40:8).

It also included the work of redemption, whereby through the shedding of His own precious blood, sins could be put away and men could be reconciled to God. There was the joy of bringing many sons to glory (Heb. 2:10). His prayer to His heavenly Father, just before He went to the cross was, *“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me”* (Jn. 17:24).

There was the joy of the reward of exaltation, following the work of redemption and the fulfillment of the will of God. Paul wrote, *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Phil. 2:9-11).

With such a goal before Him, He willingly endured the cross. He despised the shame associated with the cross, all in order that He might glorify His God and procure salvation and the forgiveness of sins, through the shedding His own most precious blood.

He is the “*Author of eternal salvation*” and the “*Author and finisher of our faith*”.

*The Author of Salvation,
He's the eternal Word;
The Master of creation,
Jesus, sovereign Lord.*

*Full Godhead, He possessing,
In human form was made;
His hands dispensing blessing,
Rich grace and truth displayed.*

*His pathway onward tending,
Toward the cross of shame;
Such love and mercy blending,
Entwined in His blest Name.*

*In willing substitution,
Eternal life secured;
For sinner's absolution,
The wrath of God endured.*

*Redemption's work completed,
He bowed His head in death;
In glory now is seated,
Perfecter of our faith.*

Bernie Payne