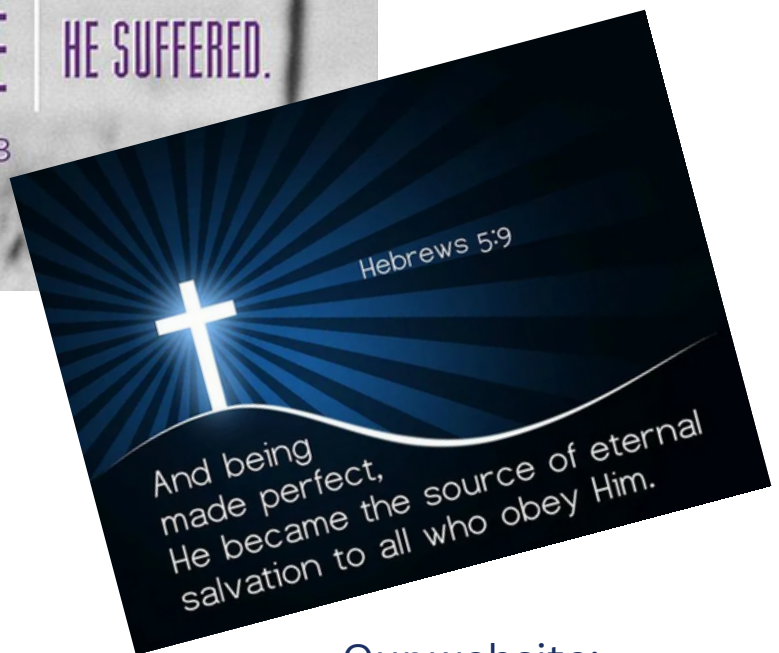


18 JUNE 2023

SBC

# SBC BULLETIN



## PASTORS

Andre van Oudtshoorn -

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SERMONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Our website:

<https://scarboroughbaptist.com>

*Details for your offering:*

**Branch number 704- 922**

**Account number 1000 19866**

Scarborough Baptist Church meets together in the name of the triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our focus this morning, as we continue our series on the book of Hebrews, is on the full humanity of Christ. The chapter develops a perspective on Jesus which we do often stress, but which is very important for our understanding of the gospel and our Christian lives.



**THEME:** Jesus is fully divine and fully human. Jesus was a human being who lived just as we do in this world. He faced the same issues which we face and had to learn to place God, his father, first in his life. The complexity of this is that Jesus was also fully God. It is important that we think deeply about the person of Christ as this affects every part of our Christian lives.

If you would like a pastoral visit, are needing prayer or have some perplexing questions we might be able to help with, please let us know.

## Prayer

We thank the Lord for

- the craft group and the seeds of the gospel which are planted there
- the Bible study group. Pray that our church will continue to feel the need to learn more about the gospel.

We pray for

- Anik who has to undergo another operation
- Keep Iris and Margaret in your prayers

## Notices

**S@6** will be on tonight

Join us for a light meal and a short service afterwards

**LARK** is open this week

**Craft** is on again this Tuesday from 9 until 11.30am

**Mainly Music** Thursday morning

**Bible Study** Friday at 10am at the church.

Hebrews chapter 5 opens as part of one continuous train of thought, from the end of chapter 4. At the end of chapter 4, the writer explained that Christ's status as fully human made Him uniquely qualified. Jesus can understand our weaknesses and temptations, since He has experienced them just as we have. Here at the beginning of chapter 5, we see that a human high priest must be able to empathize with the people, and to offer a sacrifice for their sins. Only because Jesus was fully human was He able to fulfill this role.

The early part of chapter 5 once again refers to Psalm 2 and Psalm 110. The point made here is that Christ was called to His position of High Priest by God. The Old Testament verses are explained as a prophecy about the Messiah being both priest and king, something that was not the case in the days of Moses, or David, or Solomon. The figure used to illustrate this is the mysterious Melchizedek, from Genesis chapter 14. According to the writer of Hebrews, Melchizedek's unique combination of priesthood and kingship was a symbol of the eventual role Christ would play as both our High Priest and the One who made David's kingly line eternal.

Later verses in chapter 5 transition to another dire warning. Earlier, the writer of Hebrews chided the readers to pay more attention to their faith. Those who are careless run a risk of drifting into error, and error always comes with consequences. In this case, there is much more to be said about how Christ is part of a superior High Priesthood, but the original readers need to be warned, first, not to be careless and apathetic about the Word. This warning will continue through all of chapter 6. Here, the specific criticism is of spiritual immaturity. This letter is written specifically to Jewish Christians of the early church. Apparently, there was a lack of development in their Christian lives. Knowledge and wisdom are not magically imparted at the moment of salvation. Some aspects of our spiritual lives take time and effort to develop. Those who fail to develop are like children who are still dependent on milk, when they should be eating solid food.

The end of chapter 5 and the early verses of chapter 6 form an interesting approach by the writer of Hebrews. On one hand, he points out that these Christians are immature and need to learn more about the subject. In this case, it is the idea of Jesus as a High Priest, using the example of Melchizedek. On the other hand, the writer sees these Christians as too spiritually immature for deeper details. So, what does the author of Hebrews do? He warns them about their lack of depth, but chooses not to start "from scratch." Instead, he will continue on with his examination of Christ's High Priesthood.

From <https://www.bibleref.com/>

Every high priest is chosen from his fellow-men and appointed to serve God on their behalf, to offer sacrifices and offerings for sins. 2 Since he himself is weak in many ways, he is able to be gentle with those who are ignorant and make mistakes. 3 And because he is himself weak, he must offer sacrifices not only for the sins of the people but also for his own sins. 4 No one chooses for himself the honor of being a high priest. It is only by God's call that a man is made a high priest—just as Aaron was.

5 In the same way, Christ did not take upon himself the honor of being a high priest. Instead, God said to him,

“You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father.”

6 He also said in another place,  
“You will be a priest forever,  
in the priestly order of Melchizedek.”

7 In his life on earth Jesus made his prayers and requests with loud cries and tears to God, who could save him from death. Because he was humble and devoted, God heard him. 8 But even though he was God's Son, he learned through his sufferings to be obedient. 9 When he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him, 10 and God declared him to be high priest, in the priestly order of Melchizedek.

11 There is much we have to say about this matter, but it is hard to explain to you, because you are so slow to understand. 12 There has been enough time for you to be teachers—yet you still need someone to teach you the first lessons of God's message. Instead of eating solid food, you still have to drink milk. 13 Anyone who has to drink milk is still a child, without any experience in the matter of right and wrong. 14 Solid food, on the other hand, is for adults, who through practice are able to distinguish between good and evil.

