

worshiporder

Welcome! Nursery is available immediately for children ages 0-5.
Children 6 and up will be dismissed during the service by the preaching pastor.

call to worship :: we're gonna worship the king

announcements

song of repentance :: psalm 61

telling the story :: clifton jackson

song of hope :: jesus, lover of my soul

prayer of hope :: gayle silagyi

prayer for the children :: pastor mike gunn

preaching of the Word :: pastor mike gunn

creed / communion :: pastor mike gunn

celebration / offering :: greg wright

benediction :: greg wright

Introduction

Our passage begins with its continued assault on religion and pathways to enlightenment apart from Christ. There is no doubt that all truth is God's truth, and that many worldviews and religions have clear pointers to truth, but that truth is not complete without revelation from God Himself, and that revelation comes in the person of Jesus Christ. All truth apart from Christ is a pointer, a mere shadow to who God is. It is Christ who is the "Exact representation" of who God is. It is Christ who came from heaven to earth, and had a real address, rooted in history, stuck in it with the rest of us. All other myths and stories fall short because they never rooted their stories in reality, just in the realm of possibility. Even the Jewish faith which was instituted by God, and therefore is very good, was not meant to be final, but was meant to point to our need for Christ (see **Galatians 3:23-27**). The new covenant is better, not because the old one was bad, but the new one is complete (see **1 John 2:7-8**). According to verse nineteen the old covenant was not able to make anyone "Perfect" (Complete/Mature). How often do you find yourself floundering with trying to perfect yourself by the deeds that you do, only to find yourself still struggling with incompleteness and immaturity? It is only in Christ that we can actually "Draw near to God," who is both perfect and whole, which is the reason His hope is an "Anchor for our souls." We are told by Christ to "Be perfect like our Father in heaven is perfect," not to shackle us in a works based faith, but to demonstrate that our perfection cannot compare to God's, which would move us to despair, repentance and faith in Him, our only salvation from our performance based lives. The grace we receive from Christ draws us near to God. Law cannot do that because there is always something more to do. In today's passage we see his superiority for the following three reasons...

Jesus is superior because of:

His Promise (Hebrews 7:20-22)

God's word is certainly enough without Him making an oath (Promise), but He does

so to highlight His sure faithfulness, and our unfaithfulness (see **2 Timothy 2:13**). There isn't a priest alive or dead that can make this type of promise. Religious leaders WILL let you down, and so will any human on earth, but Christ will not. He will assure your salvation, with no surprises. He "Guarantees" that the covenant with His name on it is better because of the promise of His word. He doesn't guarantee that in this life you won't have trials, anxiety, and pain, but He does guarantee that in the midst of that pain, we can have peace in Him (see **John 16:33**). He does guarantee that you can know God (**John 17:3**), and that you will be drawn closer to God (**Hebrews 7:19**).

His Permanence (Hebrews 7:23-25)

Not only is Christ a promise keeper, but He is also infinite and immortal. Priests, pastors, friends, counselors, come and go, and die, but Christ is risen from the dead, showing that he can conquer our greatest fear. As **Psalm 110:4** reminds us that "He is a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Everyone else is dead, and stays dead because of the corruption of sin within their souls. Death, we are told is natural, but the bible tells us it's a reminder of how unnatural life is. Death is a reminder of pain, and loss, and creates a longing for something better, but we resolve ourselves for accepting life as it is, instead of seeing life for what it was intended. We buy the lie for the sake of a false peace, instead of exploring life the way it was meant to be.

His Purity (Hebrews 7:26-28)

Only Christ was fit for such a task, because He, like the unblemished lambs taken into slaughter for the sins of the people only He is "Holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens." He doesn't offer up sacrifices for His own sins, because He doesn't need to (see **2 Corinthians 5:21**).

It no doubt takes a paradigm shift in our lives to turn and place all of our trust in Christ. I believe that it is a shift that can only come in God's sovereign grace in our lives. We are given to all kinds of device in order to bring ourselves hope, and even religion and works are included in these devices, but we struggle to trust, and believe, especially in something that appears to be hidden from us.

There may also be a tendency to worry that God might change His mind again, and come up with a new or even better covenant than the one that is spoken of here in Hebrew. This would be a misunderstanding of the idea of better, and new in our context. Christ "Fulfilled" the law He didn't abolish it, because the law is good (**Romans 7:7-14**). It just wasn't created as sufficient for our salvation. It was created as a window to God, not the way to God. God isn't going to "Change His mind" because He didn't in the first place, He only carried out His promises in process, and when the time was ready, He acted by sending His Son, who is God, and it is by His work on the cross that we are saved, and it is this "Permanent" act that is good for all eternity. He has secured a chance to have relationship with Him through His Son, which is seen in the fact that:

1. He brought about the means of the relationship (v. 19)
2. He guarantees that relationship (v.22)
3. He is committed to a thorough and holistic salvation (v. 25)
4. God maintains this relationship through His Son the intercessor

...To The Heart

sermonnotes

From The Head...

sermonnotes

upcomingevents

Check out the announcements email & website for more complete info.

gohawks!

SUPERBOWL PARTY today at 2:30 in the Cafe! Invite friends, family, neighbors!

ongoing

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE! Our new website is up and running. It includes information about who we are, what we're about and all our upcoming events you can be involved in. Check out www.harambeechurch2.org.

ongoing

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT RENEWAL forms need to be completed and returned (copies available at the info desk).

february 11

GAME NIGHT Come to Harambee from 7:00pm to midnight for poker and games. Invite your friends and neighbors! Hosted by Brad and Kim Pratt and Nate Cejka.

serviceopportunities

Check out the ways you can serve your community.

beverageservice

BEVERAGE SERVICES VOLUNTEERS WANTED! Three to four people is what it'll take to keep the beverage service available before and after services. AM & PM service opportunities available. Please contact Danelle for more info.

eventplanning

EVENT ASSISTANT NEEDED! Please contact Kim Pratt.

newhomeinfo *

*God has provided us with a new home. We ask that you be in prayer for this project and consider contributing (beyond your regular giving) towards it (please indicate building on your donations). For more information and project updates, see the "our new home" section at vivaharambee.com. Please contact Bryan Nelson if you have any questions about this project (bryan@vivaharambee.com).

futureimprovements

Lounge Wall & Doors: \$3000
Carpet for Sanctuary and Lounge: \$5500
Chairs for Sanctuary (200): \$5000
Sound Improvements
(Acoustic Panels, New Front Speakers, etc.): \$9000
Sign: \$2000
Office Buildout: \$3000
Bathrooms
(New Lights, Toilets, Sinks, Countertops, Flooring, etc.): \$5000
Coffee Cart for Cafe: \$5000

Amount Received \$32,627

Amount Remaining **\$35,373**

Total Amount Remaining \$35,373

attendance&finances

january29attendance :: 169

january29giving :: \$7,482

januarybudget

Harambee Giving \$21,863 *
January Budget -\$21,500
 \$363
External Support +\$ 2,000 **
 \$2,363

*10% of giving to Harambee goes to support Acts 29 church plants around the world.

**People outside of Harambee who help pay our bills.

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HarambeeChurch
together • pushing • forward

Hebrews 7:18-28



"There is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw nearer to God."