

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on October 24, 2021:**

**"Permanent, Perfect, Promised High Priest
(Hebrews 7:23-28)"**

[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman, at church in the Y, shows us that our Savior Jesus is our permanent, perfect and our promised High Priest, who has permanently forgiven us of our sins.]

Introduction:

- How many of you would like to see Pastor Craig perform a miracle today?
- The miracle is that today's message is going to be short.

- Now, when we think of the words, "perfect", "permanent" and "promised", are they positive words or negative words to us?
- So, generally speaking, these three words are positive words to us.
- We don't usually hear the phrases, "permanent layoffs", "perfect sociopath", or "promised plagues."
- Now, usually, we define a word in its context.
- The context here is used to describe our High Priest, which no doubt is positive.

- So, now let's look at Webster's Dictionary and see how these words are defined.

Permanent:

- Definition: Lasting or continuing for a very long time or forever; not temporary or changing.
- Can we all agree that this is a positive statement?
- As Hebrews will show us – our High Priest is lasting and continuing.

Perfect:

- Definition: Having no mistakes or flaws.
- Now, how many of us would like to experience no mistakes or flaws in our lives?
- That's all of us.

- Definition: Having all the qualities you want in that kind of person, situation, etc.
- Once again, our High Priest has that perfect quality.

Promised:

- Definition: A statement telling someone that you will definitely do something or that something will definitely happen in the future.
- Once again, in the context of our High Priest, this is positive.

- Today, we going to focus on a few verses that show us Jesus, as our High Priest.

Hebrews 7:23 (NASB), The former priests,

- Does anyone have an idea how many former priests there were beginning with Aaron until the temple was destroyed?
- There were 83 former priests.

23b) on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing;

- This makes sense – when a high priest dies, another replaces him.

24) Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.

- Jesus will always be our Great High Priest.
- There were 83 before Him, but none after Him, because He is now our permanent High Priest.

25) Therefore, He is also able to save forever those who come to God through Him,

- This is an easy question: how long do we want to be saved? Answer: forever.
- Now, does everyone in this lifetime have this opportunity?
- They do, but not everyone will partake of it.
- This doesn't mean that they won't have a future opportunity.

since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- We, our church, our brothers and sisters, have a lot to pray about.
- We need to realize that prayers are offered on our behalf continuously, because that's one of Jesus' jobs, as High Priest.
- Please note that Hebrews doesn't tell us that Jesus makes intercession for us "sometimes."
- No, Jesus makes intercession for each of us – always.
- It doesn't matter what kind of challenges we face, what kind of obstacles we have to hurdle, what kind of aches and pains and heartaches we face, Jesus, our High Priest, is offering intercession for us, always – not just sometimes.

26) For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens;

- Now, it's not how we used to think that Jesus "was separated from sinners."
- Jesus was separated in that He did NOT sin.
- Jesus, in his physical life, did He ever sin, which makes Him our Great High Priest.
- This makes Jesus the perfect offering for our sins.

27) who has no daily need, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because He did this once for all time when He offered up Himself.

- Do we realize the implications of what Jesus did when “He offered up Himself once for all time”?
- Jesus one time sacrifice has stood the test of time, because it was one and done.
- So, how many times do we have to ask for forgiveness of our sins? One time.
- Now, from God’s standpoint, we need to understand that when Jesus offered sacrifice for sin one time on the cross, it means that the sins of all humanity have been forgiven completely – one and done.
- This is not only our hope, but it is our reality.
- This means that every one of our sins – past present and future – were forgiven and abolished and removed forever by what Jesus did on the cross.
- Now, every person on this planet, who lived or ever lived, is reconciled and forgiven in the eyes of the Father, Son and Spirit, whether they know it or not or whether they feel it or not, or whether they experience it or not.
- In God’s eyes, there is no barrier – that’s objective.
- Now, subjectively, we all know that we sin.
- And, so when we sin, what do we naturally do?
- We repent, and there’s nothing wrong with that.
- We know, as humans, we will continue to sin until we’re glorified in the age to come.
- Until this happens, we live in this already-but-not–yet state of humanity, where we possess eternal life and yet we have this physical body subject to aches and pain and sin.
- So, when we sin, the subjectively reality that we live in, our repentance brings us back to God through our relationship with Him – not God’s relationship to us.
- Hopefully, this makes sense to us as to why we should pray and ask for forgiveness when we sin even though Jesus has forgiven us all.
- It’s all about our relationship with God.

28) For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, who has been made perfect forever.

- Our Great High Priest is permanent, perfect, promised and given.
- Jesus has done an amazing thing for us.
- Jesus loved us before we ever loved Him.
- We didn’t ask Jesus to sacrifice Himself for us, but rather He did that because He lives us.
- That’s the High Priest we serve.

Closing prayer:

Eternal Father, Son and Spirit, we love You because You love us. Father, You sent your Son and He provided an offering that forever forgives us of our sins and we will never ever have any barrier between us from Your standpoint. And that’s an amazing thing.

We thank You for Your love. We thank You for who You are. We thank You for the relationship we have Your Son Jesus. And the amazing thing is that all we have to do is believe because Your grace is available to everyone. But, in order to experience it, we must believe it. And we thank You for that belief.

Dear Father, just open up the eyes and the hearts and minds of those whom You are working with. Help them to know who You are and what life can be like residing in that relationship with the Great High Priest, because He and You and the Holy Spirit are perfect, and are permanent and You've kept Your promise.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen!

Special announcement:

- Pastor Craig and his wife, Nan, were asked to come up to the front as Ed and Nancy Stonick make a special presentation to them because October is Pastor Appreciation Month.
- On behalf our congregation, Ed thanked Craig for all that he does for us, as a congregation and gave him an appreciation card.
- Ed then read aloud his poem of appreciation to Pastor Craig:

*We appreciate you Pastor Craig,
You speak with love and are never vague.
We know that you love us very much,
And we are pleased with how you stay in touch.*

*Now, we're in a time of trial,
In a strange life style.
But your encouragement has matched our blues,
So, our faith and hope we will not lose.*

*You serve our congregation well,
There are many examples we could tell.
You're sermons are so excellent,
You open up the New Testament.*

*This is the month for pastor appreciation,
And so I'll say in brief summation:
Keep up the good work and hold the fort,
Because you will always have our full support.*