## God's Salvation Plan Hebrews 7: 24-27

Our world is filled with all kinds of offers that claim to be tailor made to suit our needs. Many of them use the pitch: "Pick the plan that best meets your needs." Each of them would have us believe their plan is superior to any others available.

This morning I would like to present an offer to you that is without a doubt the best plan ever offered to mankind. This plan is older than time itself and yet has never changed. It is perfectly suited to meet the needs of every individual, whatever the circumstance. It has been accepted by the rich and famous, poor and needy, intelligent and unlearned, by people of all races and societies. I was introduced to this plan and it completely transformed my life. It was the greatest decision I've ever made. Many of you may have already accepted this plan, and if so rejoice in what you have.

I would like to share the benefits of God's salvation plan. As we look at these verses, I think you'll agree that nothing compares to the plan that God offers. It is offered freely to all who will receive it. So, let's take a few moments to consider: God's Salvation Plan.

## I. A Consistent Plan (24) – But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable

priesthood. In the Lord Jesus Christ we now have a High Priest with an unchangeable priesthood. The word unchangeable carries the idea of "*being valid and un-transferable*." To fully appreciate what we have in our Great High Priest we need to consider the Levitical priesthood of the Old Testament. Men were chosen of God to serve as the high priest beginning with Aaron. Once appointed these men served for life representing the people before God behind the veil. No doubt many of these men loved God and served Him to the best of their ability, but yet they were still men. They were prone to sin and failure, just as we are. Their offering was made for their sins as well as the sins of the people. Each of these men died and God chose another to fill the position of high priest.

All of that changed with Christ. He is now our representative unto the Father. He didn't offer His precious blood for sin He had committed, only ours. Yes He died upon the cross, but He rose again to die no more! He retains the position of High Priest. That position is valid in Christ and untransferable. He will never relinquish the title of High Priest. Heb.13:8 – Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

• All who have ever come have come through the blood of Christ. He is the only way to salvation and that will never change. The plan of God has always been and always will be consistent. There are no changes, cancellations, or fine print! Men must come through the blood

of Jesus to be saved. The same blood that saved me is still saving men today; that will never change. Many are searching for inner peace and forgiveness of sin. Jesus is that way; the only Way!

**II. A Confident Plan** (25a) – Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him... There is no need to worry about the power of Christ to save. He is willing and able to save all who come to Him. 2 Pet.3:9- The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Jesus is well able to save all of mankind. There has never been a sinner so wicked and defiled that was beyond His power to save.

• Our salvation isn't a casual occurrence or brief encounter with the Lord. Those who have been saved have run head-long into the power of God. The redeemed are saved to the uttermost! That word uttermost has great significance for the believer. It means "*completely, perfectly, utterly, and forever*." So, in fact, the text reveals that Jesus has the ability to save men completely, perfectly, utterly, utterly, and forever! I don't know about you, but I've never heard of a surer plan that what God offers.

 Jesus' blood has eternally cleansed me of my sin! My salvation rests in the perfect, precious, royal blood of my Savior. I rest in complete confidence of my salvation. There is nothing else that offers what God's plan of salvation does. You won't find salvation to the uttermost in Wall Street, your retirement package, or other religions of the world. If you are not confident in your salvation and eternal destiny, you can get it settled today in Christ!

**III. A Continual Plan** (25b) – seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Not only is God's plan consistent to all men and offered with complete confidence, it is also a continual plan. The saved will never receive a memo from heaven that Jesus has left His throne. He ever lives to make intercession for the saved. He is right now seated at the right hand of God interceding on behalf of the redeemed. I can approach the throne of grace at any time under any circumstance. (Most plans the world offers have limited times and associates to assist you.) Heb.4:16 – Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

I'm not limited to a specific number of requests for any given period of time. The blood of Christ grants me access to the throne of God at any time, day or night. I'm glad that Jesus didn't save me and set me out on my own. I am known of Him and He is ever mindful of my every need. Jesus is better than the network that Verizon<sup>®</sup> offers! He was there when He saved me and He will be there when I take my last breath. 1 Tim.2:5-6 – For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. Jesus is my Redeemer and Mediator, always there in my time of need. God sees me as righteous because of the blood of His Son. I have a continual advocate with the Lord in Christ my Savior!

IV. A Comforting Plan (26) – For such an high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Do you ever consider the holiness of God compared to the sinfulness of men? Isaiah taught us that our righteousness is as filthy rags in the eyes of God. Rom.3:10 – There is none righteous, no, not one. It is impossible for men to become acceptable unto God within themselves. There has never been a man who lived above sin, except Jesus. It is impossible to achieve salvation based on our works or the life we live.

• This is where the comfort of God's plan comes in: we don't have to obtain righteousness in ourselves! God knew we could never live good enough to meet His demands. That's why He sent His only begotten Son to die for our sin. Jesus became a man, walking in flesh, and lived that holy, sinless life we never could. He did that which was required that we could not do!

Men are not saved based on their own merit or righteousness, but in the blood of Christ alone! He lived a life above sin, overcoming every temptation we would ever face. Heb.4:15 – For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. I can't live a life pleasing to God in myself, but through the power of Christ in me I can. There is comfort in the Lord's plan of salvation. It is possible to live a victorious life, pleasing to God through Jesus our Great High Priest.

 I've had men tell me they would get saved when they could live it. We never can in ourselves, but in Jesus we can. You may feel as if you've gone too far for God to forgive you, but Jesus has already accomplished what you never could. You can be accepted of God in Christ! You'll never live good enough to deserve salvation, but we can have Christ's righteousness imputed to our account.

<u>V. A Complete Plan</u> (27) – Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. Once again we see a picture of the Old Testament Levitical priesthood. The high priest had to cleanse himself, put on the holy linen garments, and then make an offering for himself and his house before offering a sacrifice for the people. Once the sacrifice was complete, sin was atoned for a season. However, the Day of Atonement would come again and the high priest would have to go behind the veil again placing the blood on the mercy seat.

Jesus had to offer no sacrifice for Himself. He was perfect in every way, V.26. The blood He offered upon the mercy seat in heaven was His blood, but it was for our sin. We find that He did this only once. His sacrifice fully satisfied the debt that sin had caused. Jesus once and for all atoned for our sin! As He cried, "It is finished," God's plan of salvation was complete. The blood of Jesus, plus or minus nothing, atoned for our sin. Heb.9:12 – Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

 Salvation can't be bought with money, earned through good works, or achieved through baptism or membership. Jesus completed salvation's plan on the cross. The blood of Jesus still stands as the only acceptable way of redemption. If you are searching for the peace that salvation gives, you can find it in God's plan. This world can't give you what you need. It is only found in Jesus!

**Conclusion:** It is good to know that I've been saved to the uttermost. I'm not worried about where I'll spend eternity or what will happen when I die. I have accepted the greatest offer ever given to man through the saving blood of Jesus. What about you? Can you say with complete confidence that you have been saved to the uttermost? If not, you can before you leave today. Won't you come as the Lord leads you?