

## Morning sermon series – Anchored: Find Grace, Stand Firm

### Divine Help (Hebrews 4v14-5v10)

All around us, we see the beauty and brokenness of human life, and the realities of trials and temptations.

*Where do we go with our pain and fear when we are in the middle of trials and suffering?*

#### 1) The Priest Who Shares Our Pain (4v14-15, 5v1-4, v7)

The high priest in the Old Testament was one of the people, a Levite, appointed by God to mediate between Him and the people, and to offer sacrifices for sins on the day of atonement. Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place. He understood what it means to be human but didn't have power to save.

But Jesus is the ultimate, heavenly high priest (4v14). He is not remote from our trials. He has stepped into our situation and shared our weakness, temptations, and suffering, living in total dependence on his Father (5v7-8).

Jesus knows and understands, from first-hand experience, and is near. Faith is about going to Jesus, our priest and brother, in the turmoil and disarray.

#### 2) The Priest Who Shares the Throne (5v5-6)

And this Jesus is in control even when life just doesn't make sense. He is the eternal Son and Creator (chapter 1), who is King (v5 and Psalm 2). Jesus Christ is priest for ever in the order of Melchizedek: that means he is the priest who is King and shares God's throne (v6, Psalm 110).

#### 3) The Priest Who Brings Us Home (4v16, 5v8-10)

Every Christian experiences God's personal, loving presence now by His Spirit. How much we experience that depends on how much we put chapter 4v16 here into practice. Jesus has not only gone into the Most Holy Place but he takes us there with him, into the Personal, Relational Presence of God.

*Are we asking him (5v9) to keep on doing that in the midst of our suffering and trials (4v16)?*

There's an open-armed invitation to draw near to God and to find rich grace in our need.

### Anchored in the Priesthood of the Son!

## Evening sermon series – Knowing Christ

### "Be Who You Are" (1 John 2v12-17)

What you love determines and shapes who you are more than anything else.

John is writing to give this church confidence and, in tonight's passage, he says to us, "This is who you are...so live like people with this identity!"

#### 1) Who You Are (v12-14)

You know the Father and the Son in close friendship, sins forgiven and removed, and loving fellowship wonderfully restored. The victory over evil is yours and you have savoured his sweet love.

#### 2) What You Love (v15-17)

If someone doesn't love the Father, he or she doesn't know him and is still trapped in darkness.

*What makes us tick at the deepest level? What is our fundamental love?* Head knowledge and understanding, by themselves, are not enough.

If we're driven by desires for the fleeting, immediate things of this world and by pride in what we possess, this comes not from the Father but from the world that is opposed to him (v16, 17).

*Why would we waste our lives and our time loving these things in the world, in place of him, when he invites us to love Him with all our heart?*