Introduction: You need a good lawyer!

I. A High Priest That Effectively Intercedes For Us (v.14)

A. Christ Intercedes in the presence of God for you: “[he] passed through the heavens”
   - OT high priest merely went into an earthly temple, the “holy of holies”
   - But Jesus went into the heavenly temple to intercede directly in God’s presence
     - “Christ did not enter a manmade sanctuary, that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us God’s presence” (Heb 9:24)

B. Christ intercedes eternally for you: “Jesus, the Son of God”
   - OT high priest was limited by the fact that he would eventually die
   - But Jesus, as the eternal Son of God, lives forever to intercede for us
     - “Consequently, [Jesus] is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them” (Heb 7:25)

C. Implication: “Let us hold fast our confession”
   - “confession” = what we believe about Jesus
   - Hold fast to Christ because he is the only effective intercessor between man and God

II. A High Priest that Fully Sympathizes With Us (v.15a)

A. Christ Experience Suffering/Weakness Like You: “We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize”
   - Christ experienced a dark, fallen world just as we do
   - What are some ways Jesus has suffered that allows him to sympathize with us?

B. Christ Experienced Temptation Like You: “who in every respect has been tempted as we are”
   - Christ endured severe temptation during his earthly life
Thus, he is compassionate towards us as we face our own temptations

C. Implication: Come to Christ for Sympathy and Compassion
   - We don’t have to prove to other people our need for sympathy, always frustrated over how little we get
   - Turn to Christ who is always sympathetic is our great high priest!

III. High Priest that Really Purifies Us (v.15b-16)

A. OT high priests could not really take away sin
   - Animals could not really take away our sins because animals cannot represent humans
   - OT high priests themselves couldn’t take away sins because they themselves were sinners
   - Even though we can’t purify ourselves, what are some ways we still try?
B. Unlike OT High Priests, Jesus could really cleanse us because he was not himself a sinner: “yet without sin”
   - Jesus’ perfect obedience allows him to be a pure sacrifice in our place
   - Jesus’ perfect obedience allow his righteousness to be “credited” to our account
C. Implication: Approach God with Confidence
   - “let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace” (v.16)
   - Why? Because we are covered with Christ’s righteousness and no longer have to fear judgment.
Discussion Groups

1. In what ways have you tried to represent yourself before God, rather than letting Jesus do it?

2. What are some struggles you are facing today and how does Jesus’ own experience of struggles help encourage you?

3. Talk about your level of “confidence” as you approach God’s throne. What keeps you from being sure of your standing with God? How does this passage help?