

He Is Able to Save to the Uttermost
Hebrews 7:23-25

I like the KJV of verse 25: “*He is able to save them to the uttermost that come to God by Him.*” Your translation may say “*He is able to save to forever.*” The Greek word *panteles* was mistranslated by the Latin Vulgate (*in perpetuum* which means “perpetually” or “forever”), but *panteles* means completely or fully—or as accurately translated by the KJV—“to the uttermost.” The word is used when the chief priests and scribes accused Jesus “*vehemently*” (Luke 23:10). He is able to completely, totally, fully save you. The question is: What does He save you from? “*Behold, the goodness and severity of God*” (Rom. 11:22). Christ delivers from God’s severity. The word severity means to “be cut off.” All men taste of God’s goodness. Some will be cut off.

I. Those delivered from God’s severity are those who come to God by Jesus Christ.

“*He is able to save them ... that come to God by Him*” (v. 25). Look at the last five words. The RSV uses six words: *Draw near to God through Him*. I like the five words of the KJV.

- A. Come** ... no preacher can force you to God. No parent, no matter how loving, can drive you to God. The person who is saved to the uttermost is the one who “comes.”
- B. To God** ... you don’t come to church, you don’t come to a religious ritual. You come to your Creator, the God of the Universe. In order to come to Him, you must leave something behind. You must leave sin, your self-righteousness, and your self-trust.
- C. By Him** ... that is Jesus Christ, the Person and Subject of this entire chapter. If this one verse were the only one to express the exclusivity of Christ, it would be as dynamic as the Eiffel Tower, but verses which say the same thing are like New York skyscrapers. “There is no other name given among men whereby we can be delivered” (Acts 4:12).

II. Those delivered from God’s severity are delivered *completely* and *fully* from it.

“*He is able to save them to the uttermost that come to God by Him*” (Hebrews 7:25).

First, I speak a word to the person who has come today without a relationship with God. Do you find yourself plagued to the uttermost with guilt? *He is able to save to the uttermost.* Do you find yourself in the uttermost reaches of rejection? *He is able to save to the uttermost.* Do you find yourself in the uttermost grip of despair? *He is able to save to the uttermost.*

Now I speak a word to that believer who has come to God by Christ. Listen to the Word. “*He is able to save you to the uttermost!*” You feel unworthy of God’s favor and blessing because though you have come to God by Christ in faith, you have fallen short in this life. *He saves to the uttermost.* Though you shift as much as the Oklahoma wind, He is faithful. *He saves to the uttermost.* Those of you who think God’s mercy is with you one day, then gone the next; His favor encompasses you today, but then is gone tomorrow; listen closely! Uttermost means 100% complete deliverance from ever being “cut off” from God’s favor!

III. Those delivered from God’s severity are secure because Jesus Christ ever lives.

This is the teaching of all Scripture but particularly the teaching of Hebrews chapter 7. He lives forever “to make intercession for them.” What does intercession mean to you? Its biblical meaning is very precise. Christ is the one who steps in to pay the Law’s demands. God, in His love, has provided a way of escape for us to “not be cut off” from His goodness.