

# Shadows are not Reality

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
<div>RECAP:</div>	<p>Marc gave us a great sermon last week and he started us on chapter 8 of Hebrews.</p> <p>—He told us that Jesus is the High Priest and the King and that Jesus is on the throne ministering on our behalf.</p> <p>— — Then Marc helped us understand what these 2 different titles for Christ mean.</p> <p>— — — He explained that Christ Kingship represents His authority, rule, and reign. Christ Priesthood represents Christ’s offering of sacrifice, cleansing of the people, representing God to the people and the people to God.</p> <p>— — — — Marc pointed out that we need to submit to the authority of Christ kingship and to the cleansing/ renewing of His Priesthood.</p>

Scripture:	
<p><b>INTRODUCTION:</b></p>	<p>So we are reaching that point where the author is emphasizing things that we have talked about at great length again.</p> <p>— So, my job now is to try and navigate through things that we have spent a lot of time on before and focus on things that we may have not have spent time on or we spent very little time on.</p> <p>— — So, as we move on from here, we may not spend time on each individual word or concept because we have covered it before.</p> <p>— — — Now you who know me, know that I am not against repetition, but I will be selective on the things that are repeated.</p> <p>— — — — So, this morning there are several repeated topics and if at any point you wonder, what does that mean and why didn't he talk about that? Well, I will encourage you to go back and listen to the sermon that we have previously covered that material.</p> <p>So, this morning we will be looking at the reality of Christ's work, the new covenant, and why the old things were labeled shadows.</p> <p>— We will also see that Christians are to live in reality not in the shadows.</p> <p>— — We will see that Christ has a more excellent ministry than those who came before Him; but why is it more excellent?</p> <p>— — — We will talk about the importance of drawing hearts to God—and you are thinking, we already talked about that. You are right and we are going to talk about it again!!!!</p> <p>— — — — We will talk about the way that Christians get distracted from reality and follow the wrong things which lead to passionless, loveless, soul crushing work, and all of that breeds bitterness and anger.</p>
<b>Passage Begins</b>	

Scripture:	
<p><b>Hebrews 8:4–13 (NASB95):</b> 4 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; 5 who <u>serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things</u>, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, “See,” He says, “that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.” 6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. 8 For finding fault with them, He says, “Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, When I will effect a new covenant With the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; 9 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers On the day when I took them by the hand To lead them out of the land of Egypt; For they did not continue in My covenant, And I did not care for them, says the Lord. 10 “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people. 11 “And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, And everyone his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ For all will know Me, From the least to the greatest of them. 12 “For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more.” 13 When He said, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.</p>	<p>So we pick up from last week on verse 5 and there are some things in verse 5 that give us a better understanding of the old things (old covenant, Levitical priests, animal sacrifices, tabernacle/temple, etc.), in relation to the new things (new covenant, Christ, etc.). — So, verse 5 tells us that the Levitical priests were copies or shadows of the heavenly things. — — This is interesting because when we think about copies and about shadows, they just don’t cut it as the real things. (Tell story of attempt to get real ID card). — — — The early Christians would have known about shadows as they would have used fire to heat and eat back then. — — — — Albert Mohler paraphrased Plato about shadows saying, “Plato argued that our knowledge is like that of a man who is kept in a fire-lit cave and only sees the shadows of real objects when he looks at the cave’s walls. Plato believed we only know things as shadows of the original; the real object casts the shadow in the firelight.” — — — — This is an interesting look at what we know from a philosopher which is strangely close to what the Bible tells us.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>When we think of the word shadow we think of the thing that Peter Pan lost, we think of when we were kids and thinks looked creepy but were just your sweatshirt, or things like this.</p> <p>— But the word shadow, what we need to understand is, that the shadow does not have substance or reality.</p> <p>— — <b><u>READ: Colossians 2:16–17 (NASB95):</u></b></p> <p><b>16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— 17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.</b></p> <p>— — <b><u>READ: Hebrews 10:1 (NASB95):</u></b> <b>1 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.</b></p> <p>— — — So, God is telling us and the Hebrew listeners that there is something above and beyond the fore fathers, the law, the Levitical priests, the tabernacle/ Temple, and that is Christ Jesus and heavenly realities who is the real thing that the shadows are pointing to.</p> <p>— — — — Shadows only last for a time, then when the light comes they fade and give way to what is real.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>If we were to do a long study that probably distracted us for at least a half a day from the rest of our study for something like a sermon; we would find that the Old Testament does not speak of the these old things as shadows.</p> <p>— But the New Testament tells us over and over again that they are shadows.</p> <p>— — Mohler wrote this about the author of Hebrews in relation to the Old Testament, “Repeatedly the author of Hebrews shows us how to read the Old Testament. In this instance, he’s showing us how to understand the Old Testament tabernacle. Like the Levitical priesthood, the tabernacle of old was inadequate.”</p> <p>— — — So, the author is telling us how to relate the New and Old Testaments to one another.</p> <p>— — — — Since we know that Christ and the heavenly things are reality and these old things are shadow or copies pointing us to reality; we should seek to live and have the mindset of knowing what is real and not chase after the shadows.</p> <p>— — — — — See, there are good shadows and there are bad shadows. Good shadows point us to what is real bad shadows point us away from reality.</p> <p>— — — — — — All the old things that we have looked at are good shadows pointing us to what is real but the world will produce shadows that will point us away from what is real.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>If you are a believer in Christ you are to live in reality not in the shadows.</p> <p>—But many Christians today like to follow the shadow of their own wisdom which points them to their fleshly desires.</p> <p>— —Or other believers follow the traditions of their religious beliefs; they make their convictions and preferences sin for others.</p> <p>— — —Both groups of Christians quench the Holy Spirit by allowing the sinful man to trick them into following shadows as reality.</p> <p>— — — —How do we know if we are following shadows instead of what is real?</p> <p>— — — — —Christ is real! If you are looking for reality look to Christ! If you have been following a shadow, look to Christ!</p> <p>— — — — —<b><u>READ: Colossians 2:20–23 (NASB95):</u></b></p> <p><b>20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21 “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” 22 (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? 23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.</b></p>

Scripture:	
<p><b>6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.</b></p> <p><b>7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.</b></p> <p><b>8 For finding fault with them, He says, “Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, When I will effect a new covenant With the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;</b></p> <p><b>9 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers On the day when I took them by the hand To lead them out of the land of Egypt; For they did not continue in My covenant, And I did not care for them, says the Lord.</b></p>	<p>Now we have talked about the New and Old Covenants before and that if the Old Covenant was perfect there would not be a need for a New Covenant.</p> <p>— The Old covenant was not broken like a car that breaks down. The old covenant was not in need of repair; it did exactly what it was supposed to do.</p> <p>— — The old covenant’s fault was that it was incomplete but it was incomplete by purpose.</p> <p>— — — Mohler wrote, “The old covenant was faulty because it was not final.”</p> <p>— — — — Where Christ work, the new covenant is not faulty and it is final</p> <p>— — — — — As we looked at last week; <b><u>READ: John 19:30 (NASB95): 30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.</u></b></p> <p>— — — — — This covenant sealed with the blood of the innocent lamb of God, the Son of God: <b><u>READ: Acts 2:22–24, 32-33, 36 (NASB95): 22 “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 “But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.</u></b></p> <p>— Acts 2:32–33 (NASB95): 32 “This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.</p> <p>33 “Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.</p> <p>— Acts 2:36 (NASB95): 36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, Jesus has a more excellent ministry because His ministry is real and full of substance.</p> <p>—He brings us near to God. He gives us access to the blessings of God in ways that we had not had before.</p> <p>— —What does He bring us near to God mean?</p> <p>— — —It means that we are in relation with the God of the universe.</p> <p>— — — —This is a mutual relationship that Christ is the mediator between the 2 parties.</p> <p>— — — — —God has made this new covenant different from the covenant of old that He made with Hebrews of old.</p> <p>— — — — — —It is a better covenant that is not based on anything we do but on everything that God does.</p>
	<p>So, what is our practical application? How do we apply this to our lives?</p> <p>—We need to be aware of shadows in our lives. We need to be aware of good shadows and of bad shadows.</p> <p>— —But we also have to ask ourselves the question: are we following the shadows or the reality? Are you seeking that which is above and beyond the shadow; Jesus Christ the righteous.</p> <p>— — —Let go of the shadow of the lust of your flesh, the false wisdom or knowledge you think you have, and the legalism that has made following Christ soul-crushing work that is passion-less, love-less, and leading to bitterness.</p> <p>— — — —Are you submitting to the more excellent ministry of Christ Jesus or are you still trying to live in both ministries; morality mixed with Christ when you need Him?</p> <p>— — — — —Are you drawing near to God through the mediator Christ Jesus? Or are you working hard and hoping God notices?</p>



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