
Week 20 Sermon, February 4, 2024
Hebrews 8:1-13 – *The New Covenant in Christ*

Discussion Questions

1. Read Hebrews 8:1-13. In the opening of this chapter, the author clarifies what the point of his argument has been. He first points to the fact that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven (see also Hebrews 1:3). What are the implications of our High Priest, Jesus, sitting down? What is the significance of the location where He is seated? How do the answers to these questions encourage your faith?
2. We read in verse 2 that Jesus is “a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.” How is Jesus’ place of ministry greater than that of the earthly priests? The author contrasts this with the work of the earthly priests who served in the temple. What does the author say about their service in verse 5? What was the author’s purpose in quoting Exodus 25:40? What is better: a copy/shadow, or the real thing? Explain.
3. In verses 7 and 8 the author addresses the reason for another covenant. He says that the first covenant was not faultless. Though the first covenant was good and accomplished God’s intended purposes, why was it inadequate? What did it not provide for God’s people? Also, how do we know that God intended for it to be only temporary (see vv. 8-9, and 13)?
4. God said that He would establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah (v. 8). How do we know that the Gentile believers are also included in the New Covenant promises? Other than Galatians 3:28-29, what other verses confirm that members of the New Covenant are both Jew and Gentile believers?
5. In verse 10, we read the *better promise* that God will put His law into believers’ minds and will write it on their hearts. Read Ezekiel 36:26-27. How is this better than what was provided under the Old Covenant?
6. Verse 10 also tells us that under the New Covenant, God promises to “be their God, and they shall be [His] people.” How does this unconditional promise of God bring you comfort and joy?

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7. In verse 11, we read that in the New Covenant, God promises His people a saving knowledge of Him. How does assurance that you are Christ's fuel your worship and obedience?

 8. The last promise regarding the New Covenant quoted in Hebrews from Jeremiah 31 is that God will remember their sins no more. The New Covenant in Christ's blood offers an incomparable forgiveness. Through Christ, forgiveness of sin is full and final. How is this superior to the work of the earthly priests? How does knowing that your sins (past, present, and future) have been paid in full by the blood of Christ free you from the bondage of guilt and past mistakes? Spend time thanking Him for washing, sanctifying, and justifying you (cf. 1 Cor 6:9-11).
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