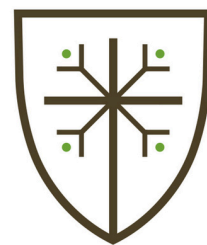


CLOSER ATTENTION

The Journey Home Through Hebrews



SERMON NOTES



September 27, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Permanence"

PREACHER

Rev. Josh Keller

TEXTS

Genesis 14:17-23

Hebrews 7:26-8:7, 13

Jeremiah 31:31-34

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How was the Old Covenant designed to give way to the New Covenant?
2. What comfort can be found in the permanent hope offered to Christians in Christ's permanent redemption?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Josh continued our sermon series on the book of Hebrews with a look at the permanence of Jesus' sacrificial work for us.

The Temporary

Hebrews 8 includes several things that highlight the temporary. The first is the original sacrificial system. The priests had to continue to make sacrifices year after year, not only for the people but for themselves as well. The offerings didn't last. They were not sufficient. The second temporary thing mentioned is the tents. The tabernacle, a tent, was the temporary meeting place of God and man while they were temporarily journeying through the wilderness. And finally, the Old Covenant itself was temporary. The old covenant was a reality that was vanishing away. It was never meant to be permanent but always pointed to something else, something better. It pointed forward to the permanent reality of Christ's once-for-all redemption.

A Permanent Redemption

God promises in his covenant to deal with the sin that separates his people from him once and for all. Jesus, because he is perfect and holy, can offer himself as a sacrifice whose effectiveness is permanent and never has to be repeated. Christ's work is not just qualitatively better but it is done in a better place - the reality on which the copy that we see and know is based. Josh used the illustration of taking a picture of beautiful scenery. We try to capture everything that we see and feel but an image can never communicate all of that. We can capture the pattern of what we see - mountains, clouds, trees, plants, even our own face - but it isn't the reality of the moment. The old covenant system, the tabernacle, the temple, the priest, they were like a photo of the reality. The reality, the real was the eternal presence of God in heaven. And that is what Christ has done. He has taken his perfect sacrifice into that eternal reality. We have a hard time understanding the impact and significance of that. In our culture, we don't think a lot about heaven in the "real" sense. It is hard for us to grasp what isn't a part of what we think of as the solid, physical world - the idea of a permanent reality beyond the one we see. The redemption that you have in Christ, His sacrificial death upon the cross and His resurrection, it is not a temporary, fickle, fading thing, like the experiences that we have in this world. It was not something that was simply done 2,000 years ago in the past. It is instead a permanent redemption because it is located in the permanent fundamental reality, the center spot of all eternity.

A Permanent Hope

Being united to Christ in a permanent redemption also gives believers a permanent hope. In John 14, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit and a peace that leaves hearts untroubled and unafraid. Christ offered this peace just before his own torture and crucifixion, showing that it is not the circumstantial peace the world gives but a hope that reaches beyond "the photo" into eternity. Drawing on 1 Peter 1, Josh describes this as a "living hope" through Christ's resurrection, an imperishable, undefiled, and unfading inheritance kept in heaven for all who are united to Jesus.