

Passage: Hebrews 8:1-13

Title: Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete

Summary: Chapter 8 begins and is the summation of the argument the inspired writer has been presenting by singling out the main thrust of that argument up to this point. The divine oath of Psalm 110:4 which prophesied of the establishment of an eternal Melchizedekian priesthood had now, in the lifetime of those to whom the Epistle to the Hebrews was written, been fulfilled. Such a Priest is not a figment of wishful thinking or speculation. He is now a reality. He is the believer's possession. The waiting is over. Jesus has risen and sits exalted on the right hand of God. He has completed everything necessary for the atonement of the sins of the whole human race and has sat down in God's heavenly sanctuary in the place of preference and blessing. All of God's favor and authority are His to command. He does not stand or bow in the presence of God as a sinful priest must. He is seated, because He is the Son, and His sacrifice is completed. Although He represents men who are upon the earth, He is not ministering in an earthly temple or tabernacle; He deals with spiritual realities in God's heavenly abode.

Chapter 8 is a concise summation of chapter 1-7.

(Hebrews 8:1 NKJV) Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek

- Jesus – Greater than Abraham – 7:1-10
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Supply All Our Needs
- Jesus – Greater than the Levitical Priesthood – 7:11-17
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Cover All Our Sins
- Jesus – Greater than the Law – 7:18-19
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Lead Us into Victorious Christian Living
- Jesus – Greater than the Old Covenant – 7:20-28
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Fulfill the New Covenant in Our Lives Perfectly

This Study, we will look at:

Chapter 8 – Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete

- Jesus – The Majesty in the Heavens – 8:1-5
- Jesus – The Mediator – 8:6-7
- Jesus – The Author of the New Covenant – 8:8-12
- Jesus – His Selective Memory – 8:12-13

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

(Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....

Let us ask God to speak His heart to us through this study today.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Jesus – The Majesty in the Heavens – 8:1-5

(Hebrews 8:1 NKJV) Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Temple Center Jewish Life

The Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life and religion, and the Hebrew believers who read this letter had been barred from its courts because of their faith in Jesus. Thus, they desperately need to understand they have access to a far greater Temple!

Chapter 8 begins with a summation of the argument the inspired writer has been presenting by singling out the main thrust of that argument up to this point. The divine oath of Psalm 110:4 which prophesied of the establishment of an eternal Melchizedekian priesthood had now, in the lifetime of those to whom the Epistle to the Hebrews was written, been fulfilled. Such a Priest is not a figment of wishful thinking or speculation. He is now a reality. He is the believer's possession. The waiting is over. Jesus has risen and sits exalted on the right hand of God. He has completed everything necessary for the atonement of the sins of the whole human race and has sat down in God's heavenly sanctuary in the place of preference and blessing. All of God's favor and authority are His to command. He does not stand or bow in the presence of God as a sinful priest must. He is seated, because He is the Son, and His sacrifice is completed. Although He represents men who are upon the earth, He is not ministering in an earthly temple or tabernacle; He deals with spiritual realities in God's heavenly abode.

(Harris, R. W., ed. (1989). Hebrews–Jude (p. 91). World Library Press.)

Psalm 110:4 (NKJV) ⁴ The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

Not Pacing / Works Complete

Verse 1 - who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens - Our High Priest is not pacing heaven arguing our case before the Father, rather he is seated, for there is nothing more to do, the price has been paid, and full access to the throne has been granted.

Things we Do / Boldly Come

The things we do; Bible Studies, prayer, missions, tithing, they are for our intimate relationship, our fellowship with God. But as for our position, children of God, it is done, it is secured through our high Priest.

(Hebrews 4:16 NKJV) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Majesty in the Heavens

Here is a beautiful passage, think on this for a moment, *who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens*. The "Majesty in the heavens". Have you looked upon your God as the "Majesty in the heavens" today. Have you considered His glory, His Kingdom, His throne. He is Our King, Royalty, He is the greatness of the universe, who calls us "His kids", we are the Kings Kids, He loves Us. The Majesty in the heavens loves you, and He has a place next to the throne waiting for you. He says "Come"

(Hebrews 8:2 NKJV) a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

(Hebrews 8:3 NKJV) For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.

Not Levi / But Melchizedek

Again last study it was challenged that Jesus couldn't be a priest here on earth because He is not from the tribe of Levi, but He can because His priesthood is greater, for it is according to the order of Melchizedek.

(Hebrews 8:4 NKJV) For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;

(Hebrews 8:5 NKJV) who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

Temple is Replica of Heaven

This is important, here we're told the Tabernacle in the wilderness and later Jerusalem's Temple were actually copies - or small-scale models of heaven itself. In the book of Revelation, the veil is peeled back and we get a peek into heaven. And we find the realities of what the OT

Temple replicated. The furniture adorning the Temple - the Ark, the altar, the lampstands, the laver - were all copies of what's now found in heaven.

The Temple of old was a shadowland of heaven.

Moses Make it Exact / The Original in Heaven

Moses told to make sure he makes the tabernacle exactly as God told him, [\(Exodus 25:40 NKJV\)](#) "And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

For it was a shadow, an exact copy of the tabernacle that is in heaven. We will study all about the tabernacle in chapter 9. We should want to soak that study up next week because when we get to heaven the tabernacle is going to be there and we don't want to look like some country bumpkin on our first trip to the big city. Revelation 11 tells us there is a tabernacle in heaven

[Revelation 11:18-19 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁸ The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth." ¹⁹ Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

On Mount Sinai, Moses was shown a "pattern" of the heavenly throne room and all of its furnishings.

How Moses was shown this heavenly pattern was a matter of great speculation among the rabbis. There's a passage in the Talmud that comments, "An ark of fire and a table of fire and a candlestick of fire came down from heaven. These Moses saw and reproduced."

Some rabbis taught that Gabriel appeared to Moses in a carpenter's apron, holding models of the sacred furniture. He then showed Moses how to build them.

The Bible doesn't give us specifics, but it's certain when Moses descended from Mount Sinai he not only held the two tablets of the Ten Commandments under one arm but a set of blueprints under the other.

The point of the author here is that Jewish priests worshipped God in a toy model - a copy of the original.

It was like a kit car. The body looks like a Ferrari, but it sits on a VW chassis and has windshield from an old Pinto. Likewise, the Temple in Jerusalem was nothing but a kit car copy of God's heavenly throne. The OT priests drove a replica. Jesus serves in the real deal!

Verse 4 tells us the temple was still standing at the time of this writing.

Moses Don't Deviate from the Instruction

Moses did not deviate from the instructions. Would you have faulted Moses if he did? Like what if he was off a foot here, two there, used this metal as compared to that? Would you have faulted him for doing so? Of course we would; hey Moses, you were given specific instructions on how to make the tabernacle! Yet here we are, image bears of God Himself, made in the image, and given instruction on how to be that, and reflect that.... model it, yet let's be honest how we can shave a foot here, replace a metal there [Genesis 1:27 \(NKJV\)](#) ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

We become (and are upon salvation) the Temple/Tabernacle God dwells in:

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

I love Proverbs chapter 2, especially the calling to “wisdom”, and in Vines Dictionary here is the definition of wisdom:

“The mastery of the art of living in accordance with God’s expectations”

It went on to add that this art was a process of “attainment” and not an accomplishment – to which we know it will never be fully accomplished until we reach heaven’s shores. I like how Paul put it in chapter 3 of Philippians, not that he had already attained....but he was continuing to press on for the high calling of God.

Proverbs 2:1–5 (NKJV) ¹ My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, ² So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; ³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, ⁴ If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; ⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.

Wisdom: - chakam (2450 ,חָכָם), “wise; skillful; practical.” This word plus the noun chakamah and the verb “to be wise” signify an important element of the Old Testament religious point of view. Religious experience was not a routine, a ritual, or faith experience. It was viewed as a mastery of the art of living in accordance with God’s expectations. In their definition, the words “mastery” and “art” signify that wisdom was a process of attainment and not an accomplishment.

- Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). In Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 1, p. 290). T. Nelson.

Philippians 3:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Oh precious saint, press on, purpose to master, let us not live in anything less than “all that we can be in Him, and be like Him”. I pray you will purpose that right now, right here, and leave here with that fire and passion “to”

“The mastery of the art of living in accordance with God’s expectations”

God what do you expect of me, speak it to me, and give me the power to do it. You must chose it, and then ask God to enable your choice.

Moses made it exactly as God told him it was to be, and may we do the same as image bearers.

Man Left Speechless

So the tabernacle/temple Moses was to make on earth was just a copy of the one in heaven, and the one on earth would be done away with, for it is just a copy of the real thing in heaven. Verse 19 of Revelation comes after we read in verse 18 the wrath has come, time to judge; all who will stand before God will be speechless, for there before them is the temple with the ark, all pictures of the perfect Lamb that would come. Standing before this temple in heaven will be Jesus Christ, the only maimed person in heaven, standing with pierced hands and feet, and a pierced side. All who have rejected, will have no excuse, no words to speak.

Revelation 11:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.” ¹⁹ Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Praise God we have Our Majesty on High, and have received His gift.

Immortal Beings

Here something interesting to ponder,

“Every human being,” says C. S. Lewis, “is in the process of becoming a noble being; noble beyond imagination. Or else, alas, a vile being beyond redemption.” He exhorts us to remember that “the dullest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all,

only in a nightmare.... There are no ordinary people ... It is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”

Lutzer, E. W. (2015). *One minute after you die*. Moody Publishers.

Today, have you asked Jesus to forgive your sin, and be your Lord and Savior, and have you are you willing to turn from your sin?

We become (and are upon salvation) the Temple/Tabernacle God dwells in:

1 Corinthians 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

God is serious about His Temple (You), and how we live, is revealing if we are His.

1 John 2:3–6 (NKJV) ³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

These readers, were being warned, don't be like those that have drifted, and went back to the Old Covenant, it can't save you, nor give you power to live today. And so too, today, the warning hold trues, maybe to some of you hearing this message, you are making up your own religion, and it is a false-religion, if you think you can mix Jesus with worldliness, and come out with holiness. Examine yourself, you immortal being, and see if you are truly in the faith.

2 Corinthians 13:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. ⁶ But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.

Jesus – The Mediator –8:6-7

(Hebrews 8:6 NKJV) But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

(Hebrews 8:7 NKJV) For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

A Better Promise

Again, with a new priesthood came new and better promises. The Levites served under an inferior system. But Jesus is a priest under the New Covenant. The rules by which He operates, and the promises He's made, are far better than that of the OT priests.

If the Old Covenant had worked - and fully reconciled man to God - a New Covenant would've never been initiated.

But God did promise a New Covenant. And here the writer quotes a lengthy passage from Jeremiah 31... (verses Hebrews 8:8-10)

1st Law / 10 Commandments

The first Covenant was inadequate; there was a need for a new Covenant. The first Covenant was based on the Law, the Ten Commandments, and the all the Levitical laws. If man could keep every last on of them then he would be acceptable to God. No man could of course, so what the Law would show them was their need for a Savior, a mediator, someone to help them out of this impossible situation.

(Galatians 3:24 KJV) Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

(James 2:10 NKJV) For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

Man's Faithfulness / God's Faithfulness

The old covenant failed because it was predicated upon man's faithfulness. The New Covenant shall stand because it's predicated upon God's faithfulness

The Mediator

Man needed a Mediator, and got one through Jesus Christ. Do you remember Job, when his buddies told him to repent of his sins before God, job said I haven't sinned, besides how could I just come before God, I need a Mediator. We are told in 1 Timothy 2, there is only one mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus. Man needed a new Covenant, one that wasn't predicated on his faithfulness, but God's.

(Job 9:33 NKJV) Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both.

(1 Timothy 2:5 NKJV) For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,
(1 Timothy 2:6 NKJV) who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

(Hebrews 9:15 NKJV) And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

The Spikes

Man needed a bridge to God, a Mediator between Him and God, someone who could intercede on man's behalf. With one hand Jesus took hold of a perfect, flawless God; with the other hand He took hold of sinful, fallen humanity. Spikes were driven through those hands. He died there for our sins. Through His sacrifice Jesus built a bridge for us to know God and fellowship with Him. That is why Jesus, and Jesus alone can save you today from your sin.

Remember when this was written, these Jewish reader were considering going back to the temple to worship. Remember the warning in 6:4, you can't go back, there is nothing to go back to, do you realize what you are considering. Do you think somehow, someday, you will have the power to keep all the Laws.

Hebrews 6:4-6 (NKJV) ⁴ For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

Today, have you asked Jesus to forgive your sin, and be your Lord and Savior, and have you are you willing to turn from your sin?

Jesus – The Author of the New Covenant – 8:8-12

(Hebrews 8:8 NKJV) Because finding fault with them, He says: "*Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;*

(Hebrews 8:9 NKJV) "*not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD.*

(Hebrews 8:10 NKJV) "*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 in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

Imprint – Not Impart

The two stone tablets given to Moses were imprinted with God's Law, but they couldn't impart God's power to keep His Law.

1st Open Heart Surgery

Dr. Christian Barnard was the first surgeon to perform a human heart transplant. Once, he asked a patient if he wanted to see his old heart. Barnard took Philip Bailberg into a room and opened up a cabinet. The doctor took out a glass jar and handed Philip his old heart. For a moment, there was nothing but silence. Philip Bailberg was the first man in history to hold his own heart in his hands. He asked Dr. Barnard a few technical questions about the procedure; then Philip picked up the jar and took a last, long look at his heart. He told the doctor, "So this is my old heart that caused me so much trouble." He set it down on the counter and walked away - leaving it behind forever.

This is what happens to a person who embraces Jesus as Lord and Savior. A heart transplant occurs. God cuts out your defiant heart and replaces it with a compliant heart. You receive new desires. You get a heart that's impulse is to love God and others

(Hebrews 8:11 NKJV) "None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

(Hebrews 8:12 NKJV) "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Verses 8-12 are a quote from Jeremiah 31:31-34 and repeated again in Ezekiel 36:26-28.

New Covenant Coming

The old covenant failed because it was predicated upon man's faithfulness. The New Covenant shall stand because it's predicated upon God's faithfulness. God was saying the day is coming that I will bring a New Covenant, and throw away the Old one.

Jesus Told Us So

Jesus told us so also when He had the last supper with the disciples, the picture of communion. That is what communion represents to us, the New Covenant based on His faithfulness, proved and demonstrated on the Cross:

(Matthew 26:26 NKJV) And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

(Matthew 26:27 NKJV) Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."

(Matthew 26:28 NKJV) "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

This New Covenant will make all things New.

(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Written on Our Hearts / Working from Within / Changing my Desires

This new covenant is so new, that it is written upon my heart. The Ten Commandments given to Moses was given on stone tablets, the New Covenant is written on our hearts. So God now writes His Law upon my heart. Jesus is the author of this New Covenant and rather than writing with His finger on a stone, or ink on a paper, He writes this New Covenant upon our heart.

That is He is working from within! He's changing me within!

(Philippians 2:12 NKJV) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

(Philippians 2:13 NKJV) for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

He's changing my desires! He's changing the things that I long for! And rather than longing for the things of the world, I now long for the things of the Spirit! And rather than longing for fellowship with the world, I'm longing for fellowship with God! You see, He puts the will there! And to do—the ability then to fulfill. It is God who works in you both to will and to do, of His good pleasure. It's written in my heart, the law of the Lord.

Igor & Olga

I have two wonderful friends in Russia, Igor and Olga. They told me the story of when they first got saved. Now mind you, Russia was a godless society, it was an atheist communistic society that had cast out God from all teachings and living. When the walls came down missionaries went in; Igor and Olga were walking down the street and heard this man speaking in Russian and said let's check it out. The man was preaching the gospel. They listened and prayed to receive the Lord right there on the street. They went home that night went to bed together as they always have (they weren't married, but living together), and the next day they both looked at each other and said, something is not right. I know I am still in love with you, but last night didn't feel right. They went back and found the street preacher and told him all, and he showed them in the Word why they felt the way they did, for they had sinned against God. Even though they had never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ their whole life, even though they never opened the Bible in their whole life, their sin brought guilt and shame. Why? Because God's law

was written on their heart, they didn't have to read the Bible to find out what was right or wrong, because the Law in their heart and mind testified to them.

I can Attest

I can attest to the same, once I got saved, there were things in my life that I knew was wrong before I even read it in the Bible. When I would hit that passage in Scripture, I'd say I knew that was wrong. But also, there were principles that I would share with others and apply to my life, and then it would be months later I would read the Scripture that supported that - why, because the Law was already written on my heart and mind,.

Why Study / Confirm / Spirit

So then why do we need to study the Word, a couple reasons. One, to confirm and encourage us in what our hearts and minds has already spoken. Secondly, and sadly, because I believe that today we have lost touch with the Spirit of God working in our hearts. We accept our sins and faults and justify them somehow, and Spirit is pushed down and away so that we can't hear Him anymore. Remember we have not yet attained!

Philippians 3:12-14 (NKJV) ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

A word on Counseling

Proverbs chapter 1 starts with:

Proverbs 1:1-5 (NKJV) ¹ The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: ² To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding, ³ To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity; ⁴ To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion— ⁵ A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

A word on counseling, those who are seeking counsel, the qualification of the counselor must be a person who “demonstrates they are mastering the art of living in accordance with God’s expectations”; any other counsel you seek is foolishness.

The worlds counsel can sound so great, or even that brother/sister in Christ can sound so wise, but if their lives are not fully living in the mastery of God’s expectation, you will only receive foolishness.

I am reminded when Absalom rebelled against David, took the kingdom from David, and there was a great counselor of David who turned against David to join the rebellion of Absalom. Absalom once had great counsel for David, but now his counsel was fueled and seeded by hatred and revenge against David, and therefore his counsel to anyone is now poor counsel, because it is fueled by the flesh. His counsel is foolishness and folly, and it ultimately leads to the death of himself and Absalom. Ahithophel's very name means “foolish and folly”.

2 Samuel 15:31 (NKJV) ³¹ Then *someone* told David, saying, “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.” And David said, “O LORD, I pray, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness!”

2 Samuel 16:23 (NKJV) ²³ Now the advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one had inquired at the oracle of God. So was all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

Ahithophel - 302 אַחִיתּוֹפֵל [ˈAchiythophel /akh-ee-tho-fel/] n pr m. From 251 and 8602; GK 330; 20 occurrences; AV translates as “Ahithophel” 20 times. 1 a counsellor of David, grandfather of Bathsheba (cf 2Sa 11:3,23:34) who joined Absalom in revolt against David, and committed suicide when Absalom did not heed his counsel Additional Information: Ahithophel = “my brother is foolish (folly)”.

Strong, J. (1995). In *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship.

Why are Christians, why are you, going to the counsel of the world when you have been invited to come into the presence of the God who created you and knows everything about you? The world, they are going to want to put you on drugs, make you a victim (that it isn't your sin but you are a victim, it's your parents faults, it is the environment you live, or “your” body is off so here are some drugs), and they do not have the ability to give wise counsel, because they do not have wise counsel, because they want to master the art of the world’s expectation, and not master the art of living in accordance with God’s expectations.

We have a High Priest, who says come, I have all the wisdom of the universe, and I have the power to overcome the flesh that dogs you. Christian, why do we need the world's wisdom!

(Hebrews 8:11 NKJV) "None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

This is talking about the Kingdom Age now, when Jesus does come and establish the Kingdom. And we won't have to go around and say, oh, you need to know the Lord, brother. We'll all, you know, just love and serve the Lord in that day!

Jesus – His Selective Memory – 8:12-13

(Hebrews 8:12 NKJV) "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Dwell on His Mercy / Should Be Further / Still have Problems

When I dwell on His mercifulness, how He has been so good to me, when I earned discipline He gave me mercy, when I earned rebuke He gave me love, when I poured out anger, He gave me blessings, my heart becomes broken before Him. I say You are too good to me Lord, You are so awesome. When I see that I should be further along in my Christian maturity and walk, yet He still keeps investing in me, then I saw ohh Lord how merciful You are.

(Philippians 3:13 NKJV) Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

We still have problems. We are still living in this body of flesh. We still fall once in a while in the mud. But thank God, we don't lie there! And when we fall, He is there to pick us up. He is there to wash us off. He is there to get us on the path again. And He's there to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Remembers Our Sin No More / East-West not North-South

So God said, I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, so much so I will remember your sin no more.

(Psalms 103:11 NKJV) For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;

(Psalms 103:12 NKJV) As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

(Psalms 103:13 NKJV) As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.

(Psalms 103:14 NKJV) For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

God puts our sins as far from the east from the west. I'm glad He didn't say north to south because that is only 8000 miles, but you can send something east, and it will never find an end. God has the ability to forget what He chooses, and he chooses to forget our sins. The problem is we won't forget them and we carry them around and let them haunt us. If God says He forgets them, then so should we.

Get UP / Claim the New Covenant

If you have fallen then get up, confess it and move on.

(Proverbs 24:16 NIV) for though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again,

If it is something you have done before you were saved, then claim the promise, claim the New Covenant

This New Covenant will make all things New.

(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

The Rest of the Story

"The Law of the LORD is perfect," says Psalm 19:7. "It gives us new life"—and sometimes in unexpected ways.

One of the most powerful personal evangelists of the nineteenth century was "Uncle" John Vassar, who grew up in his family's brewery in Poughkeepsie, New York. Following his conversion to Christ, he

abandoned beer-making for soul-winning, and on May 15, 1850 he was commissioned as an agent for the American Tract Society of New York. Vassar took off across the country, never resting in his mission of selling Christian literature and asking everyone he met about their relationship with Christ.

On one occasion, traveling in the West, he visited the home of a praying wife whose husband was an infidel. She begged for a Bible, and Vassar gave her one and went his way. He had no sooner left when the husband, coming home, saw the book and was enraged. Seizing the Bible with one hand and the ax with the other, he hurried to the woodpile where he placed it on the chopping block and hacked it crosswise in two. Returning to the house, he threw half of the destroyed Bible at his wife, saying, "As you claim a part of all the property around here, there is your share of this."

The other half he tossed into his tool shed.

Months later on a wet winter's day, the man, wanting to get away from his Christian wife, retreated to his shed. The time passed slowly, and in boredom he looked around for something to read. Thumbing through the mutilated Bible, his attention was caught by the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15. He became absorbed in the parable only to discover that its ending belonged to his wife's section. He crept into the house and secretly searched for the bottom half of the book, but was unable to find where his wife had hidden it.

Finally he broke down, asked her for it, and read the story again and again. In the process he came to the heavenly Father like a penitent prodigal returning home.

The son said, "Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son." But his father said to the servants, "Hurry and bring the best clothes and put them on him. ... This son of mine was dead, but has now come back to life. He was lost and has now been found." And they began to celebrate. Luke 15:21,22,24

Morgan, R. J. (1997). On this day: 365 amazing and inspiring stories about saints, martyrs & heroes (electronic ed.). Thomas Nelson Publishers.

The Old Covenant, was only "half the story", the New Covenant is "the rest of the story".

(Hebrews 8:13 NKJV) In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Free to Live in the New Covenant (New Deal)

The author of Hebrews is assuring these Jewish Christians that it's no longer necessary to live under the Old Covenant. Judaism, with all its rules and rituals and requirements - it's priests and penalties - are now archaic, and out-dated with the dawning of Christianity.

God has struck a New Deal with His people. He promises to give us a new heart, a new start, and we have a new part - all we have to do is believe!

The temple was still standing, but in only a few years it would vanish away, as the Roman Army would demolish it. Only Jesus would still be standing.

No more priesthood. No more sacrifices of the priesthood. No more temple. No more holy of holies. No more taking the blood of the sacrifice and it's passed away. No more is there a necessity for it, because God has established the better covenant with us. A Covenant that stands forever because it's predicated on better promises. Our High Priest lives to make intercession for us – forever.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need