



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: A New and Better Covenant

Passage: Hebrews 8:5-13

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: In our modern world, many relationships are defined by contracts, agreements that outline expectations and obligations. But the Bible describes God's relationship with His people differently. God established a covenant, a binding relationship built on promise and faithfulness.

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." (Isaiah 49:15)

The writer of Hebrews addresses believers who were tempted to return to the familiar system of priests and sacrifices, but he reminds them that those things were only shadows pointing to Christ.

"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people... And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation..." (Exodus 19:5-6)

"...All that the LORD hath spoken we will do..." (Exodus 19:8)

Our text reminds us that through Jesus Christ, God has established a better covenant built on better promises, once again showing that Jesus is better.

I. The New Covenant Replaces Shadows with Reality (Verse 5)



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A shadow shows shape but has no substance; you cannot build your life on it.

Even the tabernacle was a copy of a heavenly pattern; it pointed to Christ.

The priesthood pointed to a better priest; sacrifices pointed to a better sacrifice.

Some people are comfortable with the appearance of religion but avoid the surrender that comes with a real relationship with the Savior.

The question this passage raises for every listener is simple: Are you living in the shadow, or have you come to the reality found in Jesus Christ?

II. The New Covenant Replaces Externalism with Reality (Verse 10)

Under the Old Covenant, God's law was outside the people on tablets of stone. People could follow rules, but their hearts remained unchanged, leading to cycles of failure.

The New Covenant writes God's law on the heart, transforming believers from within.

Through the work of Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit, God changes the heart itself. Obedience is no longer merely an external duty but becomes an internal desire.

The New Covenant is not simply about moral improvement but is about relationship. Through Christ, sinners are brought into fellowship with the living God.

III. The New Covenant Replaces Distance with Personal Relationship (Verse 11)



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The knowledge of God becomes personal for every believer. Through Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit, every believer now has direct access to God and His truth.

Under the Old Covenant, access to God was limited and mediated through priests and sacrifices. But under the New Covenant, every believer can come directly to God in prayer through Jesus Christ.

Christianity is not merely learning about God through someone else; it is walking with Him daily.

Every believer has the privilege of knowing the Lord, but that privilege must be embraced through a life that seeks Him.

IV. The New Covenant Replaces Covering with Complete Forgiveness (Verse 12)

The Old Covenant sacrifices provided temporary covering but could not fully remove sin.

When God forgives through Christ, the guilt of sin is removed completely. Your sins past, present, and future are all covered under the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The New Covenant frees believers from the burden of guilt and past failures.

The promise that God will “remember their sins no more” means that He no longer holds those sins against the believer.

Forgiveness is not achieved through religious effort. It is received through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion: The Old Covenant was like a map, pointing the way but not the destination. Its priests, sacrifices, and ceremonies all pointed forward to the true Savior, Jesus Christ.

1. This passage reminds us that religion without Christ will always leave a person empty.



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People today can surround themselves with religious activity and still miss the reality of Christ Himself.

2. This passage reminds believers of the incredible privilege we possess under the New Covenant.

We do not stand outside the presence of God hoping to be accepted; we come boldly through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

3. This passage calls each of us to examine where we stand in relation to that covenant.

The New Covenant belongs to those who come to God through His Son. Forgiveness, transformation, and the knowledge of God are given to those who trust in the sacrifice of Christ.

The question is not whether this covenant exists, but whether you are part of it. Have you trusted Christ for forgiveness and transformation? Jesus is better, and He invites all who come to Him in faith to receive mercy, cleansing, and life eternal.

