



HEBREWS 8 PART 1

The End of the Spiritual Trial

We so often live as though the final verdict on our souls is still pending. We run on a spiritual treadmill, silently hoping that if we just pray or serve enough, we might finally tip the scales in our favor. This quiet exhaustion is exactly what the Old Covenant produced—a desperate, unending cycle of sacrifices that could cover sin, but could never wash a guilty conscience clean.

But as Pastor Spencer reminds us from Hebrews 8, the grueling trial of your soul has been permanently dismissed. Jesus did not just offer a better sacrifice; He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty. In ancient Jewish courts, the scribe seated at the right hand was the one who announced the definitive verdict of acquittal. Jesus is not waiting to see if your daily performance measures up—He is seated, declaring your eternal innocence. It is time to step off the legalistic treadmill, lay down your heavy burdens, and rest deeply in the finished grace of the New Covenant.

Doctrine Definition: Forensic Justification (Divine Acquittal) is the biblical doctrine that God, acting as the Supreme Judge, legally declares a sinner "not guilty" and perfectly righteous—not based on their own moral performance, but entirely because the finished work and perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ have been permanently credited (imputed) to their account.

Study Questions:

1. Pastor Spencer warned that we often settle for physical religious symbols instead of the Savior Himself. While things like communion, baptism, physical crosses, or reciting rote prayers are meant to point to Jesus, they easily become modern idols when we rely on them to earn God's favor. What is one specific religious tradition or physical object you have been tempted to treat as a spiritual mediator or "lucky charm"? (OT: 2 Kings 18:4 | NT: Colossians 2:16-17)
2. Romans 8:1 declares there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Since Forensic Justification is a permanent legal decree, why is it an insult to God's courtroom for you to continually punish yourself for past, confessed sins? (OT: Psalm 103:12 | NT: Romans 8:1)
3. The bronze altar in the Old Testament was made of wood (representing humanity) overlaid with bronze (representing judgment). How does looking at the cross of Christ as the ultimate "bronze altar" help you understand the terrifying wrath God poured out on His Son in your place? (OT: Numbers 21:8-9 | NT: John 3:14-15)
4. The New Covenant promises a fundamental change of human nature. How does divine regeneration drastically differ from simply trying really hard to modify your own bad behavior? (OT: Jeremiah 24:7 | NT: Titus 3:5)
5. There is a dangerous trend in modern culture of wanting the blessings of Jesus without the self sacrifice, described as "selling a crown without the foot thorns." How does true Christianity demand that we embrace the painful thorns of sanctification and self-denial? (OT: Proverbs 3:11-12 | NT: Matthew 16:24)