

Hebrews Pt 13 – The Better Covenant

Central Question:

What makes the New Covenant in Jesus better than the Old, and how does that change how we draw near to God?

I. The Main Point of Hebrews 8

Key Scriptures: Hebrews 8:1-2

Summary:

- Jesus is our High Priest seated at the right hand of Majesty, ministering in the true tabernacle God established.
- He makes constant intercession for us and is the mediator of a better covenant built on better promises.

Emphasis:

- Not Levitical priesthood but the order of Melchizedek.
- Christ offered Himself once for all.

II. From Shadows to Substance: The True Tabernacle

Key Scriptures: Hebrews 8:5; Exodus 25–31

Summary:

- The earthly tabernacle and its services were copies and shadows of heavenly realities.
- God gave a specific pattern to Moses; obedience to that pattern mattered.

Illustration:

- David and the ark (2 Samuel 6): doing a right thing the wrong way leads to disaster; seek God's way, not merely our intentions.

Application:

- Follow the Word's pattern; pursue prayerful obedience rather than improvising spiritual shortcuts.

III. The Better Covenant and the Better Sacrifice

Key Scriptures: Hebrews 8:6-13; 9:11-14; Colossians 2:14; Matthew 27:51

Summary:

- The Old Covenant revealed sin and brought condemnation; the New Covenant brings life and righteousness through Christ's once-for-all sacrifice.
- The veil is torn; access to God is now open.

Core Contrasts:

- Law of Moses vs. law of Christ
- Letter that kills vs. Spirit who gives life
- Shadows vs. reality
- Guilt and death vs. freedom and life
- Endless sacrifices vs. Christ's finished work

IV. Transformation by the Spirit: New Heart and Open Face

Key Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 3:6-18; Hebrews 10:16; Colossians 2:11

Summary:

- God writes His laws on our minds and hearts; the Spirit forms Christ in us.
- We behold the Lord's glory with unveiled faces and are changed from glory to glory.
- The Christian life is not ritual-centered but relationship-centered.

Application:

- Expect conviction, not mere rule-keeping; the Spirit pricks the heart and shapes our desires.
- Regular engagement with Scripture and Spirit-filled worship cultivates real change.

V. Living in the Freedom of Access

Key Scriptures: Hebrews 4:16; 10:19-22

Summary:

- We can draw near boldly to the throne of grace because of Jesus' blood.
- No need to wait for a special day or a human mediator; Christ Himself is our access.

Practices:

- Come to Jesus in prayer and worship daily.
- Confess sin quickly; receive mercy and cleansing.
- Serve and testify in the Spirit's power; prioritize relationship over performance.

VI. The Gospel Invitation

Key Scriptures: John 19:30; Hebrews 7:25

Summary:

- Jesus completed the work and sat down; He saves to the uttermost those who come to God through Him.
- Salvation is offered now; the New Covenant welcomes all who repent and believe.
Response:
- Call on the Lord; trust His finished work.
- Step into a living relationship with God through Christ and by the Holy Spirit.

VII. Key Takeaways

- Jesus is the High Priest in the true tabernacle; His once-for-all sacrifice secures a better covenant.
- The Old Covenant's shadows point to Christ; in Him we have reality, righteousness, and access.
- The Spirit writes God's law on our hearts, transforming us from the inside out.
- The veil is torn; draw near with confidence and live in grace-fueled obedience.

VIII. Scripture Index for Study

- Hebrews 8; 9; 10:16, 19-22
- Exodus 25–31 (tabernacle pattern)
- 2 Samuel 6 (David and the ark)
- 2 Corinthians 3:6-18 (letter vs. Spirit; unveiled face)
- Colossians 2:11, 14 (operation without hands; ordinances nailed to the cross)
- Matthew 27:51 (veil torn)
- Hebrews 7:25 (Christ's intercession)
- John 19:30 (It is finished)