# Covenant

Hebrews 8:1-13

The central truth
Jesus didn't come to give us a different religion. He came to give us himself.

## What is a covenant?

More than a contract, a covenant establishes a relationship with promises, expectations, and commitments. God's promise is personal: "I will be their God, and they will be my people."

## 1. Forget Religion! We have the real thing.

**Hebrews 8:1-6**

The earthly priesthood and tabernacle pointed forward to Jesus. He is our High Priest and the mediator of a better covenant established on better promises.

Religion: "I obey…therefore I am accepted."
Gospel: "I am accepted…therefore I obey!"

Apply: Where am I treating obedience as a way to earn God's acceptance rather than a response to what Jesus has done?

**Notes**

## 2. Forget dead works!
## God is changing us from within.

**Hebrews 8:7-10 | Psalm 19:7-11 | Ezekiel 36:26-27**

God's law is good. The problem is our hearts. Another set of rules cannot fix the heart; God promises to write his laws within us and give us his Spirit.

Apply: Where do I know what God calls me to do, yet resist doing it? Ask him to change the desires beneath my behavior.

## 3. Forget knowing about God!
## We actually know Him.

**Hebrews 8:10-13**

Forgiveness opens the way to knowing God. Bible knowledge, worship, and church participation are meant to lead us into a living relationship with him.

Apply: Am I growing in knowing, trusting, and loving Jesus in ordinary life, or simply getting better at religious activity?

## My response

Turn from sin and trust what Jesus has already done. If you know him, recover the joy of knowing the One all of this is about.

**One step of trust, prayer, or obedience this week:**

# Hebrews 8:1-13

The complete chapter includes each Hebrews reading in the sermon.

1 Now the main point of what is being said is this: We have this kind of high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

2 a minister of the sanctuary and the true tabernacle that was set up by the Lord and not man.

3 For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; therefore, it was necessary for this priest also to have something to offer.

4 Now if he were on earth, he wouldn't be a priest, since there are those offering the gifts prescribed by the law.

5 These serve as a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was warned when he was about to complete the tabernacle. For God said, Be careful that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown to you on the mountain.

6 But Jesus has now obtained a superior ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been established on better promises.

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion for a second one.

8 But finding fault with his people, he says: See, 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—

9 not like the covenant that I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. I showed no concern for them, says the Lord, because they did not continue in my covenant.

10 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 into their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

11 And each person will not teach his fellow citizen, and each his brother or sister, saying, "Know the Lord," because they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them.

12 For I will forgive their wrongdoing, and I will never again remember their sins.

13 By saying a new covenant, he has declared that the first is obsolete. And what is obsolete and growing old is about to pass away.

## Psalm 19:7-11

7 The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise.

8 The precepts of the LORD are right, making the heart glad; the command of the LORD is radiant, making the eyes light up.

9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are reliable and altogether righteous.

10 They are more desirable than gold— than an abundance of pure gold; and sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb.

11 In addition, your servant is warned by them, and in keeping them there is an abundant reward.

## Ezekiel 36:26-27

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances.

### Reflection and prayer

Scripture: Christian Standard Bible (CSB). Text reproduced from the supplied sermon manuscript; overlapping Hebrews readings are consolidated above.