



Message Series Guide

Nothing Greater

Part 7 – A Better Covenant

Hebrews 7:26 – 8:13

The Jewish Christians, at the time of the writing of the Letter to the Hebrews, were experiencing two critical things in their lives. First, because of the long “tradition” of the Old Covenant (almost 1,400 years) change to faith in Christ was met with a tremendous amount of resistance. As a result, there was significant persecution taking place against believers. It was a challenge to both the law and the temple that were cornerstones to the Jewish religion. Without much of a desire to listen to the new believers, and why their faith in Christ was so important, they stuck with their strong focus on the value of the law and the processes they followed in their worship. The second issue related to their level of spiritual maturity. For the new believers to grow in their new faith they must understand the Word of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ. We see several instances in the letter where the author is challenging them to grow in their understanding and maturity, not just go through the motions on a weekly basis.

READ:

Hebrews 7:26 – 8:13 | Jeremiah 31:31-34 | 1 Corinthians 10:31 | Romans 12:1 | Hebrews 2:1

- In the Old Covenant there was a High Priest in place to carry out the sacrificial offerings to God for the sins of the people. Why did Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection eliminate the need for both that role and the sacrifices for the people?
- A significant reason for the writing of Hebrews was to encourage the Jewish Christians from leaving the faith and returning to their Jewish beliefs to avoid persecution. Where do we see persecution in today’s world and how has it impacted the ways people act and react?
- In Hebrews 2:1 the author encourages the believers to “pay much closer attention, lest we drift away.” Is that relevant in the church today? If so, how, and what can be done to reverse course?
- What are ways we, as believers, can grow in spiritual maturity?
- If the New Covenant has truly become a “matter of the heart” how can we protect our hearts with all the craziness going on in today’s world?

DISCUSS:

- Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 – How can we “do all to the glory of God” daily? Why did Paul include “whether you eat or drink” as part of that text?
- Do you believe we can live a life of worship? If so, give some examples of how we may accomplish that in our lives.
- The Old Covenant contained many traditions. What traditions do we see in the church today?
- During several sermons on Hebrews the topic of revival has been discussed. How does a revival start and what role do we as individual believers play in a revival?

PRAY:

Spend time praying that you can align your heart with Jesus in living a life that magnifies Him in all your words and actions.

RESPOND:

Because of Jesus’ teachings and impact on our lives what can we do to express that to others this week?