

“The Superiority of the New Covenant in Christ Jesus”

Hebrews 8: 1-13

The writer of Hebrews has gone to great lengths to establish hope in the lives of his readers. They were on the brink of losing hope. They had been enlightened, they had tasted of the heavenly gift and had been made partakers of the Holy Spirit and tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come (6:4-5). But when persecution came, they wanted to go back to their comfort zone. They wanted to go back to Judaism. At least there, they wouldn't be executed for being a Christian. Their families might even take them back. They might even be able to make more money and regain their social standing.

The author is trying to drive home the “main point” (8:1). It's like he's taking their faces in both of his hands, looking them right in the eyes and saying, “This is the main point.”

1. What would help to explain what the writer is saying in v. 1 in that Jesus Christ has taken His seat at the right hand of the Majesty in the heavens?
2. According to v. 2, what kind of sanctuary and tabernacle is Christ ministering in?
3. Why is the tabernacle in the heavens better than the tabernacle on earth?
4. V. 3 says every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. What gifts and sacrifices did Jesus Christ have to offer?
5. Why would Christ not be a priest on earth according to the law? V. 4
6. The “point” brings up the fact that Judaism, the laws of the tabernacle, the laws of the temple served as a copy and a shadow of the heavenly things. What does v. 6 say Christ has obtained?
1. 2. 3.
7. Let's discover the promises of the new covenant. Read verses 6-13 carefully and find the “I will” statements. I counted seven.
8. What was the nature and purpose of the Law? Look at Romans 7: 7-24. Don't get in a hurry. Take the time to think about it.
9. Romans 7: 25 points us to our hope.
10. Because Jesus Christ has “finished” the work of redemption, what does Romans 8: 1-3 say to encourage you?
11. What is the difference between the old covenant and the new covenant according to Hebrews 8: 10?
12. What is the effect of the new covenant in v. 11?
13. What has happened to your sins? V. 12
14. What has happened to the old covenant?
15. When a person hears the Gospel, turns away from sin and turns to God and by faith receives Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord what happens according to 2 Corinthians 5: 17; John 5: 24
16. How did it happen? 1 Peter 1: 3
17. Closing thought: Religion is man's attempt to try and make sacrifice sufficient to earn entrance to heaven. Apart from Jesus Christ that's all one has. Are you merely religious? Is your relationship with God only external religious activity? Or has God called you and written His laws in your mind and heart? Or are you a new creature? Or are you just trying to be good?