



***“A Better Covenant”***  
**Sermon Date: May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Reflections on Sunday’s Sermon**

***The New City Catechism—Lord’s Day 19***

***Is There Any Way to Escape Punishment and Be Brought Back into God’s Favor?***

*Yes, to satisfy his justice, God himself, out of mere mercy, reconciles us to himself and delivers us from sin and from the punishment for sin, by a Redeemer. (Isaiah 53:10-11)*

**Scripture**

***Hebrews 8:6-13 (ESV)***

<sup>6</sup> But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. <sup>7</sup> For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

<sup>8</sup> For he finds fault with them when he says:

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,  
when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah,

<sup>9</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers  
on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.

For they did not continue in my covenant,  
and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.

<sup>10</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel  
after those days, declares the Lord:

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

<sup>11</sup> And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor  
and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’  
for they shall all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest.

<sup>12</sup> For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,  
and I will remember their sins no more.”

<sup>13</sup> In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

## Understanding and Applying

1. **The Old Covenant:** We might say that the old covenant was temporary and earthly—the land of *Canaan*, the Law on tablets of *stone*, *manmade* temple, *external* purification, *Levitical* priesthood, and *animal* sacrifices. What is the correlation between the temporary/earthly nature and the faultiness of the old covenant (vv. 7-10)?

- How did the earthly *shadows* of the old covenant point the saints of old to the spiritual *realities*, or the better promises, of the new covenant (vv. 10-12; Hebrews 9:11-14)?

2. **The Covenant of Grace:** Though the author speaks of Christ mediating a *new* covenant, how do we see the benefits and promises of this covenant being dispensed throughout the entire Old Testament (Genesis 3:15, 15:6, 17:7; Psalm 32:1-2, 51:10-12, 119:10-12)?

3. **A Better Covenant:** As you consider the promises of the covenant that Christ mediates, why was the new covenant necessary for your salvation (vv. 10-12)?

- **Gratitude:** Why are you grateful to be incorporated into the new covenant?