Better Covenant

Hebrews 8:1-9:10

A better High Priest requires a better covenant to minister to His people.

Hebrews 8:1 tells us we "have such a High Priest…" This is a callback to Hebrews 7:26. Read that verse.

1. Before the author moves on from the idea that Jesus is our better High Priest, he makes one more argument to make a point. How does it make you feel knowing that your High Priest is seated at the throne in heaven and ministers to you from there?
2. Why is it significant that Jesus is seated on the throne in heaven?

Hebrews 8:6-13 describes the characteristics of the new covenant. A covenant built on grace, not on works. A covenant based on God's faithfulness to us and not our faithfulness to Him.

1. How is the new covenant different from the old covenant?
2. How do you see all the characteristics of the new covenant fulfilled in Christ?

Hebrews 9:1-10 begins to highlight the differences between the earthly temple and the heavenly one.

1. List some of the ways that the heavenly temple is different from the earthly temple.
2. What is the difference between a sin being covered and a sin being cleansed?

Putting it into practice: Let's go a little more personal and dig down to find our own rituals that we practice.

1. The Jewish temple and tabernacle were copies of the true heavenly tabernacle and served a good purpose. Are there any areas in your life that you're clinging to a copy of the truth rather than the truth itself?
2. Where might I still revert to living in the law rather than in grace?
3. Is there anyone I'm still holding something against, and as a result I'm treating them differently than God would have me treat them? If yes, now what? How are grace and forgiveness applied?
4. What comfort do I find in knowing that the Lord's ministry in heaven is eternal and complete?

For Further Study

During the sermon, Pastor Fred discussed different views of covenantal thinking. There are several different views on the covenants with regard to both Israel and the church, and we would like to make sure you are informed. Feel free to use these resources, and reach out to us if you have any questions.

https://carm.org/what-is-the-covenant-of-grace

https://carm.org/what-are-the-differences-between-dispensationalism-and-covenantalism

http://carm.org/what-are-some-problems-with-dispensationalism

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Lea, Thomas & Black, David Alan. *The New Testament: Its Background and Message*. B&H Academic, 2003.

Wright, N.T. *Hebrews for Everyone*. Westminster Press, 2003.

Burge, Gary, Cohick, Lynn, & Green, Gene. *The New Testament in Antiquity*. Zondervan, 2009.

Erickson, Millard. *Christian Theology*. Baker Academic, 1983.