

Better Hebrews 8:1-13

Intro

When you notice that someone or something is better than what you have or have ever experienced. You try to be near to that person or item. The first time I truly sat down and talked with my wife I wanted to be close to her. Something about her caught my attention and I wanted to get to know her better. So the next time we were at a gathering and the only seat open for her was next to me I wasn't upset. I mean just look at her she is smokin. The more I got to know her the closer I wanted to get to her. So I married her.

Transition

Hopefully in life you have experienced. Maybe it is with a close friend, a spouse, a significant other, and so on. There are just some people or things that intrigue us and make us want to learn more about them. There is one that is better than any of the ones I have mentioned so far, His name is Jesus the Christ.

Sticky Statement: The better promise of Christ draws us near to Him.

Passage

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.

Hebrews 8:1-6

In verse 1 the author is telling us "I've told you all this because of this."

The first 7 chapters told us what was needed for us to be rescued from sin and its eternal consequences.

We need someone greater than ourselves.

We need one that is better than any prophet before.

We need one that is better than earthy priest could ever be.

We need one that will never cease.

We needed a priest that could offer a perfect lasting sacrifice.

We need Jesus as our forever High Priest who is one with the father mediating on our behalf.

Jesus doesn't offer His sacrifice in the earthly temple.

He is one with the Father in heaven and offered His gift in the Heavenly temple.

An interesting thing in verse 1 is the posture of Christ. Look back at verse 1 with me:

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

Hebrews 8:1

The fact that he is seated reveals that His work is done.

With His perfect sacrifice offered now He sits and rules as Priest and King.

The human priest and the earthly temple are just examples of the heavenly things.

The earthly tabernacle was not the place where true salvation could be found.

It is in the heavenly place of worship that Christ intercedes on our behalf.

He intercedes in a higher and better place.

It is a place and an action that man has no part, it is built solely by God.

Verse 5 the author quotes Exodus 25:40 regarding the building of the earthly tabernacle.

It calls this tabernacle a "copy and shadow" in other words it is built to resemble what we will find in heaven but it will pale in comparison.

We cannot see it for what it truly is until we arrive in eternity with Him.

In the perfect House of Praise Christ administers a new and better covenant.

A covenant based on His work and not our own.

Look to verse 7 with me:

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.

The old covenant, or the old promise, was not faulty because God was unable to make a good enough covenant.

Its only fault is that God intentionally left it incomplete.

The old Covenant is the promise God made with Israel.

If they followed the laws He gave them and offered sacrifices then their sins could be atoned for.

This was incomplete because they would always break the laws and sacrifices would have to be offered over and over again.

Something more was needed to end the cycle of sacrifice.

Something better, someone perfect, was needed to offer the perfect sacrifice.

When Christ died on the cross He offered the perfect sacrifice as our perfect forever high priest.

In doing this He offered a new covenant, a lasting covenant.

Veres 8-12 is the new covenant as foretold by the prophet Jeremiah.

The author quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34.

Under the new covenant we truly become His people.

Look back at the last part of verse 10:

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.

Hebrews 8:10

At the moment of salvation the Holy Spirit resides within the believer and begins to remodel.

He helps us to internalize the teachings of Scripture.

It is knowledge but moves past that it becomes life.

Not so we would be glorified but so that He would be.

Dennis Johnson in his commentary on Hebrews says this about this part of verse 10:

It expresses the goal of God's redemptive plan, that his steadfast love will be met by his people's grateful loyalty and glad obedience. As a result, God receives the glory that he abundantly deserves, and his people receive the blessedness that he generously promises.

Derek Johnson

When God calls us to salvation we become His people.

He is our God, our focus of praise, and adoration above all else.

When He becomes our God we become citizens of the King, permanent members of the Kingdom of Heaven.

In His grace God picks us up from the muck of our sin and we respond with love and praise.

Verse 12 is one we must look at again:

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

Hebrews 8:12

We like to hang on to our past sins.

We like to remind ourselves of the times we have failed.

We often have the knowledge that God has forgiven us but we won't forgive ourselves.

This verse is a reminder not that God doesn't remember that we have sinned but that He has chosen not remember it in His justice.

When God looks on us in judgment our sins are forgotten.

Our sin has been replaced with the blood of Jesus as a sign of the sacrifice offered by our Perfect Forever High Priest.

The chapter closes reminding us that there is no reason to ever go back to the old way of doing things.

It has been outmoded by something better, richer, permanent.

It has been replaced by the covenant of Christ with His people.

Application

The better promise of Christ draws us near to Him.

He calls us out of sin and makes us His.

We call Him God and He calls us child.

The grace of Christ is sufficient for the sin of man. When we surrender to Him and have faith in Him, we will be set free from the eternal punishment of our sin.

Challenge

Is God drawing you near?

Commentaries Used in Preparation

Christ Center Exposition: Exalting Christ in Hebrews

The Gospel Coalition Commentary on Hebrew by Dennis Johnson