

"A New Covenant" - Hebrews 8

Intro: How many of us have had the experience of trying to adapt to something new? How's that been? What about spiritually? How challenging has it been to learn to walk with the Lord by faith breaking out of old, useless molds and patterns? What about the change from the Old Covenant (Mosaic/Law) to the New Covenant in Christ speaks not only to the Hebrews but to us as well? What are the challenges, and yet, the superior blessings of the New Covenant (NC)?

- 1) V.1: Under the Old Covenant (OC), one could see their priest at work in the sanctuary, they continued in succession to appear before the people and work on their behalf. In the NC, while Jesus also finished his work on the cross in plain sight, resurrected, and ascended in the presence of many witnesses, the significance of His finished work before God in the heavens must be apprehended by faith. We live by faith, not by sight!
- 2) V.2-4: Under the OC, one had to bring sacrifices, gifts, perform rituals, keep feasts, and render full obedience according to the law for Israel's blessing and prosperity. In the NC, we have nothing of ourselves to offer; our service is but a love response in faith to God's service for us in Christ. Our blessing is not conditional on what we bring/our own obedience/works but what Christ has brought/his obedience. We obey because we have been blessed; we love because we have been loved! We serve because we have been served!
- 3) V.5-7: The OC's system was intended to point to the heavenly realities of blessing through Christ, not to procure them itself. OT saints were blessed/saved by Grace through faith looking ahead to the fulfillment of the promise in Christ. NC saints gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of redemption through the fulfillment of the promise in Christ by looking at the types, copies, and shadows of the OT. We don't revert back to copies and shadows but unceasingly gaze at the glory of Christ in our redemption! In His light we see light!
- 4) V.6-9: The defect of the OC in not being able to bring the people to perfection, namely, to the blessing of reconciliation/drawing near to God, given their weakness in conforming to the OC terms, is overcome by the service/ministry of Christ to us in the NC. The NC delivers what the law could not, the power of grace through Christ!
 - A) **God puts/writes/imputes His laws/righteousness in the heart through faith by convicting us of sin and leading us to Christ. (v.10a)**
 - B) **God's laws/righteousness in the heart creates an appeased conscience of acceptance or union with God through Christ as His holy beloved people/children. (v.10 b)**
 - C) **Access and service to God with confidence for all with an appeased righteous conscience through Christ in whose knowledge, assurance, and image we are transformed. (v.11)**
 - D) **The mercy of God in Christ makes all things new renewing the sinner in the power of the New Covenant in His blood, namely, the power of forgiving justifying grace! (v.12-13)**