

February 27, 2022
Foundations of Faith from the Letter of Hebrews...
Salvation-A New/Better Covenant
Pastor Mike Griffin
Hebrews 8

¹The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ²and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man. ³Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. ⁴If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. ⁵They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." ⁶But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. ⁷For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. ⁸But God found fault with the people and said: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ⁹It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. ¹⁰This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ¹¹No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹²For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." ¹³By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

Questions for Personal or Small Group Use

Opening: When you think about the difference between a covenant and a contract, what comes to mind for you?

Discussion:

- What is the writer's point?
- When the author says "we have such a high priest" (8:1), what kind of high priest is he referring to (7:23-28)? What do we "have" in Jesus?
- He mentions Christ sitting down at the right hand of God five times (1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2). Why? How does this show that Jesus' ministry is superior to that of the Levitical priests?
- Jesus has sat down, but He still serves as priest before the Father (8:2). What is His ongoing priestly service? How is Christ's service as a high priest different from other high priests?
- How is the ministry of Jesus superior to the ministry of other/earlier high priests?
- God set the terms of both the old and new covenants. Why did He choose to initiate a new one (8:7-9)? How is the new covenant described?
- How should the fact that your relationship to God is based on Jesus' sacrifice, not on working to please God, affect your feelings and actions?
- List the foundational blessings of the new covenant, and explain what they mean (8:10-12)?

Application: Meditate on the fact that God has chosen not to remember your sins any more (8:12). How does this motivate you to act? Start by thanking God.