

Book of Hebrews
Adult Sunday School Class
Faith Baptist Church 2010-2011

Lesson 10: Hebrews 8 The New Covenant is Better than the Old

1. The new vs. the old

- A. How does the author describe the tabernacle where Christ is seated?
- B. Why would Jesus not be a priest if he were on earth?
- C. Every priest has to have something to offer. What does Christ offer?
- D. He has obtained a more excellent ministry because...
 - 1.
 - 2.

2. The New Covenant

- A. Why is there a need for a new covenant? (verse 7)
- B. What was the problem with the old covenant according to verse 9?
- C. List the benefits of the New Covenant given in verses 10-12

- D. The first covenant is old, obsolete and on the way out. (verse 13)

This discussion of the Old vs. the New Covenants is an extremely important one. It is not just a theoretical discussion related to something that has no bearing on us. So before we go on to chapter 9 we will do a New Testament study of the two covenants. We, even as Christians, have a tendency to old covenant thinking. Let's look first at some of these tendencies and then compare the two.

3. Ways in which we have a tendency to adopt old covenant tendencies.

- We start to think that we can fully keep God's commandments without divine help, without the need for grace.
- This results in (or maybe from) lowering the standard and minimizing our failure to comply in order to feel good about how well we're doing. We so want to earn God's approval.
- We tend to give weight to the minor applications and trivialize the major. (Matt 23:23)
- We create human rules and traditions. (Mark 7:8; Colossians 2:20ff)
- We sometimes elevate the law above the clear word of God. (Acts 10:14)
- We think we can be saved by law-keeping or at least become mature or suppress the flesh by law-keeping. (Galatians 3; Colossians 2:20ff)

- All of this boosts our pride and promotes judgmental attitudes toward others and actually moves us away from the gospel.

4. Study comparison between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant

Law, Old Covenant, Flesh	New Covenant, Grace, Faith, Spirit
Heb 7:11, 18; 8:7	Heb 7:19; 22; 8:6
2 Cor 3:3-11	2 Cor 3:3-11; 17, 18
Galatians 3:9-11; 4:9-10; 4:23-30	Gal 3:9, 18; 4:7; 4:30; 5:1
Col 2:14-23	Col 2:14-23
Romans 7:4-12	Romans 7:4-12; 8:4
Romans 9:32; 10:4, 5	Romans 10:8
	Heb 13:20, 21