

Q: Many people (including Christians) feel they need to atone for their own sins on their own strength and power). How does it impact your daily living that your salvation is not based on your efforts but on the once-for-all accomplished work of Jesus Christ?

Q: Who can you encourage with this Good News? How can you be intentional this week to share the freedom Christ brings with someone who may be trying to earn God's favor? Pray for opportunities to listen to others and hear their stories and for open doors to share your faith journey with Jesus.

Q: What is one life change that you can intentionally make this week to be even more mindful of Jesus and His finished salvation work? This will bring freedom, joy and peace—praise Him!

Take time to thank Jesus for His priestly work done on the cross in your place for your sins. Praise Jesus that He is our Great High Priest, permanently representing you and I as believers before the Father, so we can always boldly approach God's throne of grace and find His mercy in our time of need!



Harvest Growing Deeper

Evangelical Free Church

A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal and/or small group study)

Week of November 3, 2019

Hebrews 8:1-13

The Old Covenant was based on God's Law and His temporary plan to allow sacrificed animals as substitutes to atone/cover over human sins, day by day, year by year, in order to maintain a relationship with a Holy God.. The Old Covenant wasn't flawed (God didn't make a mistake!), but the people were flawed; they could never fully measure up to God's holy standards and they consistently failed. The Old Testament predicts its own replacement with a better way forward. This New Covenant of God's grace, replaces the old, and places God's laws in our hearts (through the Holy Spirit's continued presence) and offers total forgiveness of all our sins through the work of Jesus Christ, our Messiah, Savior and Lord. The Old Covenant was external. The New is internal; God transforms us from the inside out! It was God's plan all along. The New replaces the Old.

Q: Why is it sometimes difficult to give up old ways of thinking or doing things and replace them with new ways of doing things?

Q: How does the author summarize our high priest (Christ) in 8:1-2? (from 7:23-28)?

Q: Five times Hebrews refers to Christ "seated at the right hand" of the throne of God (1:3,13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2). What is significant about this truth? How does this show that Jesus' ministry is superior to the Levitical priesthood?

Q: Contrast the location, nature and function of the two priesthoods (Levitical & Jesus). See 8:1-5, 5:4-5; 6:19-20; 7:23-28

Q: Consider the recipients of this letter, Jewish Christians, people who had grown up living under the OT Law and Levitical priesthood. What struggles might they encounter as they lived under this New Covenant?

Q: What do you learn about the Levitical priesthood in v. 5? How did those priests serve as a copy and shadow of what is to come?

Q: Put yourself in their position. What in this chapter demonstrates the superiority of New Covenant against the Old Covenant?

Covenant (v.6): The Hebrew word comes from a root that means “to mind.” A covenant was a relationship cut between two parties wherein each bound himself to perform a certain service for the other. God’s retribution was invoked if either of the two parties did not fulfill the obligation. The New Covenant (first mentioned in Jeremiah 31:31-34) was a complete revision of the Old Covenant and when ushered in by Christ, made the old one obsolete.

Q: How are you encouraged by v.12, that in spite of our struggle with sin, God through our trust in Christ alone, chooses to “remember our sins no more?”

Q: The Old Covenant was founded on conditional promises (see Ex. 19:5-6, Deut. 28:1-2—“if you faithfully obey the Lord... then... God’s blessings will come to you...”). On what is the New Covenant founded? See v. 6-13.

Q: If God now forgives us of all our sins, past, present and future, is it ok to dive right back into sin, knowing we can seek God’s grace and forgiveness? (see What Paul says in Rom 6!)

Q: What four promises does this new covenant involve? (v.10-12)

Q: How might your view of sin differ if you were required to bring animal sacrifices to a priest on an ongoing basis? (remember: if we choose to sin, we’re also choosing to receive the consequences of our sin).