

The New & Better Covenant
Hope Chapel Honolulu
Hebrews 8:1-13

¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: “I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹¹ And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” (Hebrews 8:10-11, ESV)

Introduction

What does the Word and Spirit mean by telling us that Jesus is the guarantor of a better covenant? The grace and mercy of God towards all who put their trust in Christ’s substitutionary death and resurrection is, of course, a large part of this improvement over the old covenant. But Christ, who was proclaimed as the promised Immanuel or “God with us” also makes promise and provision for “God within us”—the Holy Spirit!

1. More than a song: Jesus is the center of it all. (Hebrews 8:1-5)

- a) The center of this better covenant is a Person and not a place.
- b) Perhaps all the places on this side of eternity are but copies?

2. A new covenant first for the houses of Israel and Judah. (Hebrews 8:6-9)

- a) A better covenant based upon better promises.
- b) A better covenant that overcomes our faithlessness.

3. God for us, God with us, God within us. (Hebrews 8:10-13)

- a) A covenant that circumcises the heart and not the flesh.
- b) A better covenant because of the promise and provision of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

Participation in the old covenant was evidenced by a circumcision in the flesh of Jewish males and proselytes, while participation in the new covenant is evidenced by a circumcision of the hearts of male and female, Jew and Gentile, through God the Holy Spirit. While the circumcision of our minds is something that needs to be accomplished through discipleship, the superiority of this new covenant has much to do with how God reaches out to us and within us, with our permission.

For our prayerful study, discovery and application:

- 1) How is the significance of Christ greater than the temple or its sacrifices?
- 2) What are the differences between the old and new covenants and why do they matter?
- 3) What did the Word and Spirit of God remind you of or teach you anew here?

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