

Matchless part 17

Hebrews 8:1-13

The Title Of The Message: “Better Promises”

The Key Word: Main Point

The Thought: Better promises have come because we have a better High Priest, with a better ministry and a better covenant.

The Breakdown:

Verses 1-5 The Main Point

Verses 6-9 A Better Ministry

Verses 10-13 A Better Covenant

Verses 1-5 The Main Point

Hebrews 8:1-2 NKJV - Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 NKJV - a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Now this is the main point... Paul wants to make sure that we haven't forgotten the main point, The reason he is saying all this is to remind us that we have a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the majesty in the heavens, unlike the earthly high priest, He ministers from a place of all authority, as earthly pastors we may have some authority given to us by the Lord but He ministers with all authority in the heavens. Notice also that He is seated unlike the earthly priest under the Mosaic law, when we look at the earthly tabernacle, as brilliant and

opulent as it was, there was no place for the priest to sit, they were continually working, because their work was never finished but Jesus sits at the throne because His work was finished at the cross.

A Minister of the sanctuary... Paul points out also that Jesus was not a priest of the earthly tabernacle but of the true tabernacle that which was made without human hands but was erected by the Lord, why is this important? Because the earthly tabernacle is just a copy of the heavenly reality of the real tabernacle.

Pastor Chuck has this perspective... The reason why there had to be such complete carefulness in the making of the tabernacle, that he makes it exactly according to the plan that God gave to Moses on the mount, is that the tabernacle is a model of heaven. You want to know what heaven is like? Do you want to know what it looks like and all? then study the tabernacle. The Holy of Holies is a model of the throne of God in heaven. The cherubim there in the tabernacle overshadowing the mercy seat. And so it is a model of the heaven.

Hebrews 8:3-5 NKJV - For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. 4 NKJV - For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; 5 NKJV - who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

For every high priest is appointed... The earthly priest were appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, in the tabernacle and then the temple, Jesus while on this earth, technically could not serve as a priest because he was not of the tribe of Levi but instead was of the tribe of Judah, and so did not enter into the the Holy of Holies on this earth, but why would He? After all this is just a copy and shadow something that was inferior to the real thing, He didn't need to, but it doesn't mean that He didn't

serve as a High Priest, His priesthood was of the order of Melchizedek, so we find Jesus making a High Priestly prayer in **John 17** and then He makes the perfect sacrifice that only a High Priest can make.

Who serve the copy and shadow... The earthly priest could only serve in the copy or shadow of the true tabernacle, instructions were given to Moses to carefully follow the pattern in making the tabernacle, I wonder if the Lord had shown Moses not just drawings but the 3D model of original tabernacle in heaven? The pattern had to be followed because it was a type of the heavenly, that true tabernacle that Jesus serves in.

Paul emphasizes this in order to make his point clear, that if those that he is writing to, if they would be tempted to go back to Judaism, that they would in fact be leaving the real thing to go back to a shadow. Bringing it back into perspective how some have left religions coming into a relationship with Christ and then are tempted to go back are leaving God's ideal relationship with Christ to serve mans idea of relationship to God, they are leaving the substance which is Christ for fluff!

Colossians 2:16–17 (NKJV) 16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

We should note that on earth there were many priest who were qualified to serve in the copy and shadow of the tabernacle but there was only One who could be qualified to serve in the heavenly tabernacle and that was Jesus.

The copy and shadow of the heavenly things... Before the temple was destroyed on 70 A.D. it was a sight to see, Herod added to it but even with all the riches that had been poured into the first temple by Solomon and the second temple that Herod added to, its shine is nothing compared to the glory of the heavenly temple, and during the seven year tribulation there will be another temple built probably with the best technology man has to offer but it still will be a type, a shadow, a copy, nothing in comparison with the real temple in heaven.

Hebrews 10:1 (NKJV) For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

Verses 6-9 A Better Ministry

Hebrews 8:6-7 NKJV - But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. **7** NKJV - For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

But now He has obtained... How was that? What makes His Ministry better than the priest of Levi? Because all the sacrifices that they would have to make, they were obligated to make year after year, and day after day, all the blood of animals that was shed could not remove sin! It could only cover it...

Hebrews 10:3-4 (NKJV) **3** But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. **4** For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

It's only the blood of Jesus that could wash away sin, not of animals, God wasn't looking for sacrifices but obedience, even Samuel eludes to this, **1 Samuel 15:22** (NKJV) So Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

What makes Jesus' ministry better is Jesus!

Hebrews 10:8-9 (NKJV) **8** Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), **9** then He said,

“Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

For if that first covenant had been faultless... Jesus mediated a better covenant with better promises, because the law was weak, with all of its preparation and all of its sacrifices and all of its instructions on how to be holy, it could not make people perfect before God, now if the Law was all the answer to mans problem then there would not have been a need for a new covenant.

Ephesians 2:13–16 (NKJV) 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

Hebrews 8:8-9 NKJV - Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 9 NKJV - "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD.

Because finding fault with them... What could possibly be the problem or the fault of the Old Covenant it was perfect and it was good Paul says so in **Romans 7:12 (NKJV)** Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

Here is the problem when you go back to Exodus 19 there you will find the covenant that God makes with Israel, and then the giving of the Law and the establishing of the priesthood, but in verse five we find the problem here’s what it says, **Exodus 19:5 (NKJV)** Now therefore, if you

will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

Did you see it? He says if “you” will indeed obey My voice and keep My Covenant, I am the problem! This can only happen if I’m faithful to obey and keep all the law! This is why another covenant had to be sought after, there is no way that we as sinful people can or ever could keep the Law.

But why the first covenant? **Romans 7:13** (NKJV) Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.

Without something as good and holy as the law we would not know we were in sin, but the problem with the law is that it could not make men righteous it could only point out failure, this is why we needed Jesus to mediate a better covenant with better promises something that doesn’t depend on us keeping the rules and regulations that we so often fail at, what better promises? The promise to never leave nor forsake us, we might walk away from Him but he will never walk away from us! Instead He will be with us in our deepest darkest times, and He will strengthen us in those times, showing us His mercy and grace, what is mercy? Not getting what we deserve (hell and damnation) and what is grace? Getting what we don’t deserve, forgiveness, love and blessings.

Verses 10-13 A Better Covenant

Hebrews 8:10 NKJV - "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

For this is the covenant... This covenant is better because everything depends on and was done by Jesus, the old covenant was you do this and you will live but if you don’t your dead! Jesus came and was obedient

and fulfilled the law, the new covenant is based off of the finished work of Christ, it isn't conditioned on my obedience but on Gods faithfulness.

Chuck Smith has this insight... The New Testament superior to the Old Testament, or the new covenant superior to the Old Testament, because it is based upon better promises of the work that God has wrought through Jesus Christ, that finished work. Once and for all, offering the sacrifice, and now my just believing in Him. And that is the condition, my believing in Him.

So the difference is that instead cold stone tablets that the law was written on the new covenant is written on the tablets of our hearts, He puts it in our minds and writes them on our hearts. His will is not an external thing that we do but now internal, by God's grace we can now be all that He wants us to be, we read the scripture and say I want to be like that and I want to do those things and God does something new in us so that we can do those things by writing His will on our hearts, by giving us His mind, by filling us to overflowing with His Spirit.

Romans 1:19–20 (NKJV) 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse...

Sometimes people wonder why I don't go after those who have dropped out of church, its not really my job to do that, the new covenant says that they know what they should be doing already, because Jesus has written it on their hearts and put it into their minds of what's right to do, what they don't need is someone putting rules and regulations on them, putting a guilt trip on them, to shame them into coming back to church, I'm not the third person of the trinity my job is to love them in the truth, to pray for them, if they are truly seeking the Lord they don't need me to convince them to come back to church they will do it because its right! Because this new covenant is conforming and transforming me into the image of Christ, it's not that we don't care but its more that they don't.

We come to Christ and we experience this freedom like never before and then well meaning Christians come in and lay down the rules and regs on you and you aren't as excited about Christ or the church as you were before, Jesus freed us from sin not so that we could go and live in sin all the more but that we might be free to follow the leading of the Spirit to do the will of God, helping me to be what I could never be by keeping the law, the fact of the matter is that Laws are for the lawless, but if I'm living life in the Spirit then I have no need for the Law because the Lord has written His will in my heart, and now the things that I say and do are coming out of my heart for Christ. Because of that I'm not going to want to skip church, I'm not going to want to smoke or drink or things like that! I will have a desire to know the Lord not just the blessings of the Lord but to know Him in a very real and personal way.

Hebrews 8:11-13 NKJV - "None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. 12 NKJV - "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." 13 NKJV - In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

None of them shall teach his neighbor... The greatest thing about being a Christian is how the Lord puts His will in our hearts, we no longer have the heavy burden or the hard yoke of the law, instead all we do is what the Lord is whispering in our ears, and writing on our hearts, if we are doing things the wrong way we have His word, pastors and teachers of the word to rebuke and correct us, if we are unsure God has raised up leadership to encourage us and confirm what we are doing is according to God's will.

Philippians 2:13 (NKJV) for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

In that He says... Notice that the new covenant has made the old obsolete and now what is obsolete is growing old and is ready to vanish,

no matter how orthodox the Jewish people may try to be they cannot truly follow the law, because there are no priest, there is no high priest, to make sin offering on the alter, can you imagine if that were happening today? PETA would be right there! They aren't keeping the old covenant, they may be adhering to the dietary laws and they be keeping the sabbath, they may be offering their prayers at the western wall, at Rachel or Abraham's tomb but they are not keeping the covenant because the temple was destroyed in 70 AD and so they had to stop keeping the whole law, but the new covenant that we are under is a better covenant an ever lasting covenant with better promises established by a high priest that doesn't die, and doesn't change, who doesn't have to make offering for His own sin before He offers them for mine! But He is the only One who could make the perfect sacrifice to cleanse me and deliver me from my sin and open up the throne room so that I can approach the Lord with boldness to ask for mercy and grace in my time of need.

Application:

- 1. The New Covenant is established by a better High Priest, and comes with better promises.**
- 2. The New Covenant doesn't depend on my faithfulness but on God's faithfulness.**
- 3. The New Covenant is everlasting and allows God to write His will on my heart and in my mind, and has provided the word, pastors and teachers, to rebuke, correct, confirm and encourage us as we seek to live for Jesus on this earth.**