

Refuel 8: A Better Covenant Hebrews 8

Think back to the time before you were a Christian. How does your “new” life in Christ compare with your “old” life and attitudes?

The New Covenant is the primary focus in this chapter of Hebrews. Verse 2 mentions that Christ is ministering (in a present tense) as He sits on the throne. He sits at the place of honor at the right hand of God...the successor. He does this in a place that was not built by human hands, but by God.

The Old Covenant was an impersonal, external legal code that provided a temporary covering for sin. However, the New Covenant promised that the law is written on the hearts of people internally. The best part was that it was a permanent and final forgiveness of sin as well as providing power to us to live as we ought to, not by fear or guilt.

The Old Covenant was a system with human priests and sacrifices that are only “copies and shadows.” Jesus was not qualified to be a priest during the OT times because he was not part of the tribe of Levi. The present tense of verse 4 explains because the Levitical system of sacrifices was still in effect the temple had not yet been destroyed. This is significant because the destroying of the temple ended Levitical worship.

Where is Christ right now? Why is this position significant?

Romans 8:34 – “Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

How does this chapter demonstrate the superiority of the New Covenant over the Old Covenant?

Ezekiel 36:26-27 – “²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

How does the New Covenant affect internal heart change?

Do you think you might view sin differently if you were required to bring animal sacrifices to a priest on an ongoing basis? How so?

Are you glad that we live by the New Covenant rather than the Old Covenant? Why? How does impact the how you see Jesus’ death and resurrection?