

**Sovereign Grace Church**  
**“The Barrier of the Veil” outline**  
August 14, 2016

**Hebrews 9: 1-10**

*The Old Covenant service of worship was filled with outward glory and grandeur. It was both awe-inspiring and intimidating. It reminded the participant that the One worshipped was no idol or figment of ones imagination....but the very Essence of what it means to be Real, Alive and All-Powerful! The danger of a mis-step was real and on more than one occasion an ill-prepared worshipper paid with his life! The reason for all of this was not just the transcendent holiness and righteousness of God...but our own sinfulness and depravity.*

*It was not that God did not desire to have fellowship with those created in His image...His inherent love made it inevitable....but that for that fellowship to work, the problem of sin had to be justly resolved. This was accomplished with the advent of the New Covenant and its administrator Jesus Christ. With Christ as the perfect High Priest the cost of sin was finally paid. The veil in the Old Covenant temple, which prevented direct and personal fellowship in God's presence, was ripped from top to bottom & sin was no longer a barrier between man and his Creator. The way was open for the first time since the Garden for open, transparent and loving fellowship between fallen man and his God. Thus, the utter & complete superiority of the New Covenant to that of the Old.*

*And yet, despite the riches of the New Covenant, the Old Covenant priests sewed the veil back together! Even residents of the New Covenant often live like they still reside under the Old. This morning we will look at the Old Covenant tabernacle service and the barrier it was unable to lift but which Christ obliterated.*

**1. The Old Covenant Tabernacle 1-5**

- **The Dignity of the First Covenant**
  
- **The Outer Room or Holy Place**
  
- **The Inner Room or Holy of Holies**

**Q. Why does the author associate the altar of Incense w/ the Inner Chamber when it was clearly located in the Outer?**

**2. The Old Covenant Priestly Service 6-8**

- **The Regular Priestly Service**
  
- **The High Priestly Yearly Service**

- **The Veil which separated the two chambers**  
Matt. 27: 50-51a; Gal. 3: 13-14; Rom. 8: 14-16; Phil. 3: 12; Col. 3: 12-13

### 3. The Veil of our Guilt 9-10

- **The Old Covenant system could NOT cleanse the veil of our guilty Conscience.**  
Gen. 3: 8
- **Only Jesus was able to do that!**  
Col. 2: 13-14
- **God's expressed purpose is for open and loving communion with His people.**  
Ezk 37: 26-27; Rom. 8: 1

**I John 4: 7-11; John 13: 35**

#### **Questions for Personal or Family Conversation**

1. **How would you contrast the Old Covenant worship service with the New Covenant worship service? If you have not studied the Old Covenant tabernacle and temple system you may wish to do so. There are many good internet sites and one classic is Alfred Edersheim's The Temple: Its Ministry and Services.**
2. **Imagine yourself a faithful priest ministering in the Holy Place at the time Jesus died. Suddenly the impregnable curtain is ripped from top to bottom without hands! What would have been your thoughts? Do you think you would have been concerned to immediately repair it or to consider why and how it happened?**
3. **Why was the veil ripped upon the death of Jesus? What did the tearing symbolize?**
4. **If our real guilt has been done away with in Christ....why do we still spend so much emotional energy protecting ourselves from our sins discovery? Would you feel comfortable disclosing your sins before God? Before fellow believers? Why the one and not the other? If the church is to be a healer of relationships....how can this problem begin to be resolved?**