

Sovereign Grace Church
“Who are the Priests?” outline
August 21, 2016

Hebrews 9: 11-15

As we continue our study of the Book of Hebrews we find the writer contrasting the benefits of the Old Covenant of the Mosaic economy, in which most of his immediate readers had been raised, with the New Covenant of Jesus. He has taken pains to contrast the tentative and incomplete work of the Levitical Priesthood with that of Jesus' higher Melchizedekian Priesthood.

The people to whom he is writing are in danger of rejecting the New Covenant and returning to the Old Covenant primarily to escape the impending persecutions directed towards those who are advocating for Jesus. We have found that this temptation is not unique to the early church but is something the church has contended with through the ages. In order to combat this temptation it is important to understand exactly what the benefits are which the New Covenant of Jesus conveys to believers. Only with this knowledge can we effectively resist the temptation to “go back” to a time of supposed security.

However it is also true that in understanding our New Covenantal inheritance we are equipped to effectively extend Christ's kingdom in a way that the Old Covenantal saints could not even imagine. We thus continue our study in contrasting the Old Covenant system with the riches of the New Covenant during this mornings sermon.

1. A more Perfect Tabernacle 11

- Old Covenant Tabernacle furnishings
- The New Covenant Tabernacle

2. A more Perfect Sacrifice 12-14

- Old Covenant Priestly Services
- New Covenant Priestly Services
 - Jesus Sacrifice is Unique & Unrepeatable v. 12
 - Jesus' Sacrifice issues in Active Righteousness for the believer
Ex. 19:5; Rom. 3: 10-11
 - Jesus' Sacrifice issues in Atonement for Sin for the believer
Isa 53: 5-6; Rom. 3: 23-26

- **Jesus' Sacrificed Himself vv. 13-14**
Matt. 27: 46

- **Jesus' Sacrifice Cleanses the “Inner Man”**

- **The Power of our Conscience Ac. 24:16; Jn 8:9**
- **The Struggle of the Guilt of Past Sins**
- **The Struggle of the Guilt of Present Sins Rom. 7:19**
- **Solution to a Guilty Conscience & Effective Service I Jn 1: 9**

PT: Our Conscience tells us what we must think of ourselves; Christ's blood tells us what God thinks of us in Christ! Jn. 13: 10; II Cor. 3: 18

PT: Our conscience should not Condemn us....it should be our Servant as it is Re-filled with a knowledge of Christ!

3. A more Perfect Covenant v.15

Application: If Christ is the High Priest of the New Covenant....who are the Priests?
Rev. 1:6; Rom. 12: 1-2,9-21; Jn 17:21; Matt. 5:16.

Questions for Discussion and Conversation

- 1. Can you identify with the people to whom Hebrews was originally written? Have you ever been tempted to “give up” on Christ? How do you explain the fact that you chose to stay? How can that help you in your ministry to others?**
- 2. Even if Christians are not tempted to give up on Christ, many are tempted to give up on the church. Why do you think this is? What are possible reasons why some folks decide to walk away from church and follow Christ on their own? Are there good reasons for doing this? Are there sufficient reasons? Why or why not?**
- 3. Do you have a “clean conscience” before the Lord and other people? If you do not, what is the solution to getting one? Why are we tempted to delay this? What happens so so? What does it mean to keep “short accounts” with God and others?**
- 4. How is having a clear conscience related to serving Christ in extending his kingdom on this earth? What is necessary apart from having a “clear” conscience? Is changing the content of our conscience part of the personal transformation that God seeks for us? What is absolutely necessary in this besides our own willingness to change?**