



SERMON NOTES

KEEP MOVING FORWARD

This is Our Story (part 1)

I can only answer the question 'What am I to do?' if I can answer the prior question 'Of what story or stories do I find myself a part?' – Alasdair MacIntyre, After Virtue

"Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being." (Hebrews 8:1-2)

Christ brings us into a better covenant (8:1-13) made possible by a better sacrifice (9:1-10:18).

A Better Sacrifice

"He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" (Hebrews 9:12-14)

A Better Covenant

"This the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (Hebrews 8:10-12)

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Sermon Overview

Weariness. Sluggishness. Apathy. We have all experienced these feelings at some point—they drain our excitement and energy for living well. So, what do you do when you find yourself in a season of exhaustion and fatigue?

The book of Hebrews is written to a group of Christians who had found themselves in that type of season. In the midst of opposition and life's complications, they were in danger of losing interest in following Christ. So, this book reminds them of the resources they have in Christ and the nature of the journey they are on. All along the way, the author's challenge to them and to us is simply this—keep moving forward!

Praying Scripture

The prayer focus this week is Hebrews 10.1.

"The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.."

Below is an example of how to pray the passage:

Heavenly Father, thank you that the Law which was given to Israel and was a shadow of better things to come through Christ. He is not only my heavenly High Priest, but the sacrificial offering that you accepted as the full and final payment for my sin and the sin of the whole world. Thank you that there is nothing more that I need to do other than believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior. May I never become complacent about the enormous sacrifice that the Lord Jesus paid on my account when he went to the cross for my sake. In his precious name I pray, amen.

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

FEBRUARY 25

Whether we realize it or not, each of our lives are shaped by stories—stories that define our beliefs, values, and priorities. As we continue our study of Hebrews, the author gives us a thorough understanding of the gospel, which should shape our understanding of Christ and what it means to follow him. In a definitive way, the author says: "this is our story."



DAY ONE

Breathe, listen, pray and ask the Spirit to guide your time.

Read: Hebrews 8-10:18 to get an overview of this section. Today's study is on Hebrews 8:1-13.

1. What is the central point being made in each of the following sections?
 - a. 8:1-2
 - b. 8:3-6
 - c. 8:7-12
 - d. 8:13
2. What do the terms copy, shadow, and pattern indicate to you about the Levitical priesthood? (8:5)
3. God set the terms for both the old and the new covenants. Why did he choose to initiate a new covenant? (8:7-9)

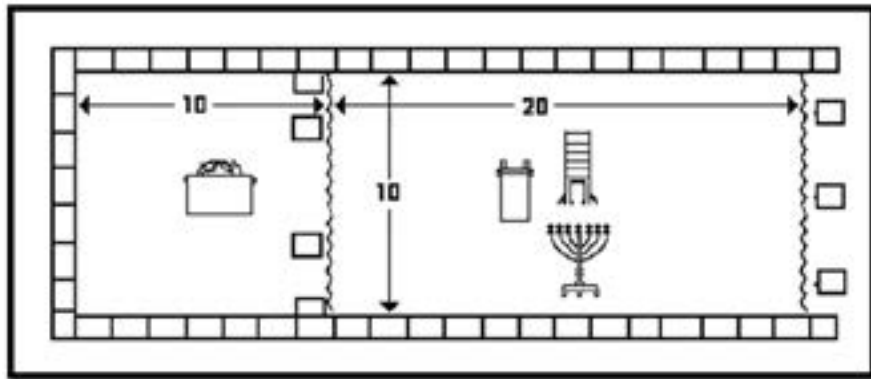
Reflect on verses 12-13 and think about what those verses mean to you today. How are you encouraged knowing that your sins are remembered no more? If there is a sin you have difficulty forgetting, confess it and remember that God forgets it too.

DAY TWO

Breathe, listen, pray and ask the Spirit to guide your time.

Read Hebrews 8-10:18 to get an overview of this section. Today's study is on Hebrews 9:1-12.

1. Summarize the main ideas in this passage in 2-3 sentences.
2. Label each of the items in the diagram.



3. Look at 9:7 and answer the following questions:
 - a. Who could go into the most holy place?
 - b. How often could he go into the most holy place?
 - c. What was required to access the most holy place?

Reflect on verses 11-14. What words in those verses are most impactful for you? How do they remind you that you are clean and our consciences are clear because of what the blood of Jesus has done for you? How should you respond to this reality?

DAY THREE

Breathe, listen, pray and ask the Spirit to guide your time.

Read Hebrews 8-10:18 to get an overview of this section. Today's study is on Hebrews 9:13-10:18.

1. What role does Christ play in the initiation of the new covenant? (9:15) What does the word mediator mean?
2. What legal image does the author use in 9:16? What was necessary to bring this will (covenant) into reality?
3. How is the atonement, purification, or redemption brought about by Christ similar but superior to the old covenant system? (9:22-28)
4. Contrast what the Law was not able to do (10:2) with what Christ's sacrifice was able to do. (9:14)
5. Hebrews 10:5 says that the Father provided a body for Jesus. Why was it necessary for Jesus to have a body in order to accomplish the Father's will? (10:10)
6. The Aaronic priests never sat down in the sanctuary, they remained standing because their work was never done. Contrast that with 10:14-18. What is so critical that Jesus' work was once for all?

Reflect on your posture as you wait for Jesus to return. Are you eager for Christ to return and complete your redemption? What sins or fears diminish your eagerness for his return?

Respond and Apply: The section of scripture we studied this week is rich with meaning as we think of the superior work of Christ. Write out your thoughts about what it means to know you are holy and are being made holy based on the work of Christ.

As you listen to this song [Holy Forever](#), respond in worship and adoration just as the angels do in their worship of Jesus.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. How would you define the word sacrifice? What is the greatest sacrifice you have ever witnessed? What is the greatest sacrifice you have ever personally given?
2. Why is the image of blood so significant? What is jarring about using the language of blood in this passage?
3. How does the reality of the blood Jesus shed for us give us life?
4. Why is it important to understand the literal nature of Christ's sacrifice? Why was it necessary for him to die on our behalf?
5. What should our response be to Christ's sacrifice?
6. Interact with this phrase, "The new covenant works from the inside out, not the outside in."
7. Read Hebrews 8:10. This passage speaks to the work of transformation in our lives as our hearts change. How is this transformation occurring in your life?