

Community Group Discussion Guide

Sunday, December 29, 2019

Scripture: **Hebrews 8:1-13**



THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Jesus is the superior high priest whose status makes the covenant he inaugurates a better covenant since it is enacted on better promises.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION *(Use along with **Reading: Ante Faciem Dei**)*

- What does verse one teach us about Jesus' atoning work? What is signified by Jesus sitting? What's significant about where he is seated? Contrast this with the sacrifices of the Levitical priesthood.
- In Old Covenant times, where did God dwell among his people (verse 2)? What is the otherworldly *tent* that it foreshadowed? How is Jesus' unending, ministerial role in the holy places (verse 2, Hebrews 7:25)?
- What gift did Jesus offer that was vastly superior than the multitude of gifts offered by the Levitical priests (verse 3, Hebrews 7:27)?
- How did the Levitical priesthood serve as a shadow/copy of Jesus' superior priesthood (verses 4-5)? If the old covenant sacrificial system was given by God and prescribed proper worship, what need was there for a new covenant? Is your faith grounded in your identity or behavior or in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
- What is a covenant and for why did God establish covenants with humanity? What does this teach us about the character of God? How was Mosaic Covenant *faulty* (verses 6-7; Romans 8:3, 7-8), *powerless* (verse 9), and *obsolete* (verse 13)? In contrast, how does the New Covenant forged in Jesus' blood give us *new power* (verse 10b), make us a *new people* (verse 10c), give us a *new position* (verse 11), and offer us a *new provision* of God's merciful forgiveness (verse 12)?
- As followers of Jesus, what is our relationship to God's moral law?