

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: JESUS IS OUR MEDIATOR
HEBREWS 8:7-13

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus is on our side and is always there to help us when we are struggling. (Heb. 13.22)
2. In the first part of Hebrews 8 (vs. 1-6), Jesus is presented as our Minister who helps to keep our relationship with God safe.
3. The second section (vs. 7-13) presents Jesus as our Mediator who gave us the New Testament. (Heb. 9.15; 12.24; 1 Tim. 2.5)

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW COVENANT

- A. The New Covenant was faultless.
 1. **HEBREWS 8.7:** *“For if that first covenant had been faultless...”* A law without fault replaced a law with fault.
 2. Did God give Israel a faulty system? (Gal. 3.24,25)
 3. The fault of the Old Covenant is that it did not offer complete forgiveness. (Heb. 10.4)
- B. The New Covenant was fresh.
 1. **HEBREWS 8.8-12:** God promised that a new covenant would be given to replace the old covenant.
 2. It was a “new” covenant. *Kainos* – “fresh.” It carries the idea of something never before experienced.

II. DEFINITION OF THE NEW COVENANT

- A. The New Covenant is defined by three components.
 1. The New Covenant is conditional. It contains laws which must be obeyed. (Heb. 8.10; 5.9; 1 Pet. 1.22)
 2. The New Covenant is logical. It is a covenant which requires rational thought. (Heb. 8.10)
 3. The New Covenant is emotional. It is a covenant which requires sincerity. (Heb. 8.10; Rom. 6.17; Matt. 22.37)
- B. Responding to the New Covenant allows us to be in fellowship with God.
 1. **HEBREWS 8.12:** *“For I will be merciful...and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”*
 2. This relationship with God is made possible because Jesus serves as our Mediator. (Heb. 8.10)

CONCLUSION: Jesus became our Mediator providing a New Covenant which makes us right with God when we obey it.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

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MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

IN THE CLOUDS

We live in interesting time in reference to technology. In the past, what you saved was limited to the space you had on your computer’s hard drive. Today, everything resides on the cloud. If you are not familiar with cloud technology, the concept is fairly simple. Companies have massive hard drive which we can access from the internet. No longer do we need to store our files, computer programs, and data on our own computers. We can simply upload everything to the cloud. Since it is not stored on the hard drive in our computer, we can access the information from anywhere and with any device.

Did you know that there is a place where our eternal reward is stored? If you are a faithful Christian, eternal life is yours. But it is not currently in your possession. It is being stored for you in the cloud. In 1 Peter 1.4, reference is made to our *“inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”* Where is our inheritance? It is currently *“reserved in heaven for you.”* It is in the clouds. Jesus taught something similar when He said, *“Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”* (Matt. 6.20).

As convenient as cloud technology may be, there is always the risk of our data being lost, corrupted, or stolen. But our eternal treasure is safe...as long as we are faithful (Matt. 6.20). CLP

WILL YOU BE READY WHEN JESUS COMES?

MATTHEW 25:13

INTRODUCTION:

1. In Matthew 25, Jesus begins by teaching us how important it is to be prepared when He comes again. (Matt. 25.13; cf. 24.36)
2. In the last two sections of the chapter, Jesus answers two questions that we might ask as we prepare for His coming.
 - a) How can I be prepared at His coming?
 - b) What can I expect to happen if I am among His faithful?

I. HOW CAN I BE PREPARED?

- A. The parable of the talents.
 1. Scene one: The Assignment. (Matt. 25.14; 1 Cor. 4.1,2)
 2. Scene two: The Administration. (Matt. 25.15-18)
 3. Scene three: The Accounting. (Matt. 25.19-25)
 4. Scene four: The Assessment. (Matt. 25.26-30)
- B. How can I be prepared for the coming of Christ? Always be productive and profitable in good works.
 1. **JOHN 15.1,2:** *“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away”*
 2. **MATTHEW 21.19:** *“And seeing a fig tree by the road... found nothing on it but leaves...”* (cf. Matt. 25.41)

II. WHAT CAN I EXPECT IF I AM FAITHFUL?

- A. If I am found faithful when Jesus comes, I can expect to be welcomed home to heaven.
 1. **MATTHEW 25.34:** *“Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you”*
 2. On the day of judgment, Jesus will offer us rest in heaven as our eternal reward. (Matt. 5.12; Heb. 4.9,10)
 3. It is a home prepared *“for you from the foundation of the world”* (Matt. 25.34)
- B. If I am found faithful when Jesus comes, I can expect to learn that I served others.
 1. I served people physically. (Matthew 25.35)
 2. I served people socially. (Matt. 25.35)
 3. I served people medically. (Matt. 25.36)
 4. I served people emotionally. (Matt. 25.36)

CONCLUSION: Are you a faithful follower of Christ?

HOW TO PRACTICE SELF-CONTROL

Growing in the faith includes learning self-control. The Holy Spirit through Peter tells us that we are to be diligent to *“add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, self-control”* (2 Pet. 1.5,6). Do you have a hard time resisting temptation? Is it easier to play a game on your phone than read your Bible? Temptation is defined by having desires (James 1.14). Do you find it hard to resist the urge to be unkind to someone who is unkind to you? If you spend some time in 1 Corinthians 9, we will learn from the apostle Paul some insights in learning self-control.

First, to exercise self-control, you need “I will” power. The idea of “I will” power is to decide to do something even if you don’t feel like or want to do it. In 1 Corinthians 9.24, Paul wrote, *“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.”* There are days when I do not feel like running the race. There are moments where I am not interested in reading my Bible, going to services, or offering prayers. But I must develop “I will” power where I am determined to do what I need to do even when I don’t feel like it.

Second, to exercise self-control, you need “I won’t” power. The idea of “I won’t” power is the opposite of “I will” power. It is the idea of deciding to restrain yourself from those things you want to do. If you keep reading, Paul continues to say, *“Everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things”* (1 Cor. 9.25). The word “temperate” expresses the thought of having the inner strength to say no to your desires. In order to stay focused on the race, the runner abstains from those things that would be a distraction. It reminds me of what we find in Hebrews 12.1: *“let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”*

Third, to exercise self-control, you need, “I want” power. This is the idea of having a point of focus. Not the immediate gratification of wanting pleasure but setting your mind on the goal set before you. Our text tells us that *“they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown”* (1 Cor. 9.25). Paul had the prize of eternal life in view (cf. Phil. 3.12-14). This is why Paul writes, *“I discipline my body and bring it into subjection”* (1 Cor. 9.27). Paul exercised “I will” power. He exercised “I won’t power.” That because Paul wanted eternal life, and that moved him to exercise self-control.

The power to exercise self-control either by saying yes to what God wants you to do (“I will” power) or by saying no to what you want to do (“I won’t” power), lies in the ability to set your mind on obtaining eternal life (“I want” power). Focus on the goal of heaven, and it will help you gain control over your desires.

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