

Spiritual Growth Questions for September 6, 2020
(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

Opener: Use short expressions of praise and gratitude for all that Jesus is and for all that he has accomplished for the world and for you individually.

1. What is the main point the author has been making up until now? How does Hebrews 8 particularly verse 1, connect to the previous chapters and summarize the author's main point?
2. **Read Hebrews 8:8-12.** List ways the new covenant is better than the old. In what ways did Christ fulfill of these promises? How does the new covenant deal with our greatest problem once and for all?
3. "Freely we receive, freely we give". Discuss why it is so important to share the blessings of the new covenant with others?

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." 13 In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

I. Use the **S.O.A.P.** Bible study method for the Passage above:

Scripture: Read this passage three times with an open heart and ask the Lord Jesus to speak to you.

Observation: Write down what you see in this passage. Make as many observations as you can.

Application: Write down how you will be different because of what you have just read. Look for lessons to be learned, examples to be followed and promises to be enjoyed. How is Jesus revealed?

Prayer: Write out a short prayer.

(Group leaders assign passages to members)

II. **Read the following scriptures: Micah 7:18-20, Ezekiel 36:26-27, Philippians 2:12-13, Romans 12:1-2.** Choose one of the above passages and apply the S.O.A.P. study method. Which one of these passages could we pray for you this week? Who could you be praying one of these passages for this week?

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews
Jesus: A Better Covenant
Hebrews 8:1-13. September 6, 2020
Pastor John Lloyd

The book of Hebrews presents the greatness of Christ like no other New Testament writing. The author knew that by remembering and lifting up Jesus, he would help the readers endure their difficult circumstances. As this book is read, it demands a response. We live in a world of covenants and agreements. We make agreements in our relationships, at work, and even with other drivers. The writer of Hebrews shares the superiority of the new agreement Jesus brought to all who put their trust in Him. His covenant allows fallen man to have a relationship with a holy God and experience the forgiveness of sins resulting in spiritual transformation from the inside out.

Jesus is better and He makes us better!

Hebrews 8:1 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. 3 For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. 4 Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. 5 They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain." 6 But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the **covenant he mediates is better**, since it is enacted on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. 8 For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 9 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." 13 In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

Key questions: Why is Jesus so much more than just a good teacher? Why is his "agreement"/covenant to be exalted over all other covenants? Why is this new "agreement" covenant so meaningful for Christ followers?

Big Idea: The new covenant allows Christ followers to have a strong relationship with God. **Jesus is the answer to our brokenness!**

I. No teacher ever _____ or did what Jesus did.

Hebrews 8:1 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man

He is morally perfect. His has perfect finished work. His enthronement is in heaven. He is exalted. He is ministering in a better place.

Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Luke 24:25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (Hebrews 2:9)

"Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light," 2 Tim 1:10 "so that they may rise again to a better life." Hebrews 11:35b

"Death is not an end, but an exit. Death is not a blank wall but an open door." Robert Niles

Hebrews 8:3 For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. 4 Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. 5 They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.(All offerings pointed to Jesus)

The Person and work of Jesus is a revelation to our blind hearts!

I. Jesus _____ all previous covenants and introduces the best agreement ever between God and humans.

Hebrews 8:6 But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the **covenant he mediates is better**, since it is enacted on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

Five covenants: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David. Each covenant was important but they all culminate in Jesus.

Why is this new "agreement" covenant so meaningful for Christ followers?

III. The new covenant deals with the _____ of the human race.

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Six "I wills" in Hebrews 8:8-12. The new covenant is wholly of God's grace.

The law was external; it declared God's holy standard but it could never provide the power needed for obedience. Sinful people need a new heart and a new disposition within; and this is just what the New Covenant provides. Wiersbe

Our key issues: 1. Relationship with God, 2. Intrinsic motivation and power to do God's will, 3. Forgiveness of our sins.

Hebrews 8:11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

Forget/remember no more – Not to hold it against

Hebrews 8:13 In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

This New covenant is of such a quality that it will never be replaced.

God wants us to be in a committed relationship with him and it is that relationship that forms both foundation and essence of a superior way of life. George Guthrie

Challenge: God spilt the life of His Son that the world might be saved; are we prepared to spill out our lives for Him?

Matthew 10:8b. Freely you have received, freely give!

- Pour out what God has poured into you!
- Broken people help other broken people find the Savior Jesus who heals!

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."