

May 8 HE>all “A Greater Covenant” Hebrews 8:1-13

Gist: Jesus has a greater ministry because He is the Mediator of a greater covenant based on greater promises.

I. Hebrews 8:1-6

A. How does the author compare the role of Jesus with the role of the temple and its priests?

1. Location?
2. Covenant (relationship with God)?

B. The author describes the sanctuary as being a copy and shadow of that in heaven (Hebrews 8:5). As a science teacher I used to tell my students that while science is excellent at coming to understand the physical world, there was more to the world than just its physical components.

1. How is the reality we experience regularly like a shadow of God’s reality?
2. How can we glimpse God’s reality better or more often?

II. Hebrews 8:7-13

Most of this comes from Jeremiah 31:31-14, and is the basis of Jesus’ reference “This cup is the new covenant in my blood,” (Luke 22:20). Paul also references it in 2 Cor 3:7-18.

A. How is this new covenant different than the old covenant? See Exodus 24:3-8

B. The old covenant seems straightforward (see Deuteronomy 30:11-20). Yet Paul describes a different reality in Romans 9:31- 10:3. Why didn’t the “law” system succeed in promoting a relationship with God?

C. Given our bent to sinfulness, do we, and if so, how do we as Protestant Evangelical Christians still practice a form of legalism that separates people from knowing God? Where do we impede the grace of God flowing to people he has forgiven, including at times ourselves?