
Sermon Notes

May 7, 2017

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Blueprints

Hebrews 8:1-13

Get to the Point!

- ❖ “To make a long story short...”
- ❖ 8:1, *Now the point in what we are saying is this*
 - Jesus’ person and ministry is superior to everyone and everything that has preceded it
 - God fulfills the longing, expectation and hope of the Old Covenant with the New Covenant
 - Jesus is the High Priest of this superior covenant
- ❖ As far as salvation is concerned, Jesus has accomplished all that can be accomplished: **IT IS FINISHED!**
 - Jesus’ sacrifice and atoning work is finished
 - **BUT**, Jesus’ priestly work is **NOT** finished

Blueprints

- ❖ Blueprints are important but are not the finished building

- like a blueprint, the Old Covenant was only a shadow of the realities of the New Covenant
- the earthly priesthood of Israel’s priests was only an inadequate shadow or a blueprint of Jesus’ heavenly priesthood
- ❖ Why be satisfied with a copy when we can have the real thing?
- ❖ **Blueprint : Building as Old Covenant : New Covenant**

The New Covenant

- ❖ Covenants are enacted on promises
 - Christ’s covenant *is enacted on better promises*
 - as far as God’s covenants are concerned, it is always HIS promises that are significant
 - in the New Covenant, God offers better, richer, fuller, more complete promises than the promises He extended through the Old Covenant (vv. 7-8)
- ❖ The Old Covenant had planned obsolescence built into it
- ❖ In Jeremiah 31, God allows the prophet to see that the Old Covenant was a bridge to a future covenant God would one day make with His people
 - to his Jewish audience, the author of Hebrews is saying, “Based on Jeremiah 31, you should have been expecting this New Covenant. You should have known it would be superior to the Old Covenant.”

■ God's New Covenant

- v. 8, it is established by God and God alone
 - v. 9, it is not like the Old Covenant (it is not an upgrade, it is radically different)
 - vv. 8 & 10, it is made with the nation of Israel
 - v. 10, it is internal
 - ♦ everything about the Old Covenant was primarily external (law written on stone tablets, rituals, sacrifices)
 - ♦ under the new covenant, God writes His law on our hearts
 - ♦ the New Covenant enables us to offer God joyful loving obedience, NOT begrudging obedience
 - ♦ under the new covenant, worship is internal not external, it is real not ritual, relationship not religion
 - ♦ **Blueprint : Building as Old Covenant : New Covenant as Religion : Relationship**
 - v. 12, it offers total forgiveness in Jesus
 - ♦ forgiveness makes relationship with God possible
 - ♦ God is not interested in religion... God WANTS relationship with us
- ❖ God no longer operates on the basis of His Old Covenant, it is obsolete

Contemporary Traps

- ❖ Many today still live in the shadows, content to have the blueprints without the building, religion without relationship
 - locked into following obsolete, ineffective means of trying to be right with God
 - law, legalism, judging, trying to do things one's own way
- ❖ Jesus invites you to leave these self-defeating, self-destructive, self-righteous traps behind
 - come to the Christ of the New Covenant
 - ask Jesus to write His law of love on your heart
 - Matthew 11:28-30

Personal Application

1. What blessings of the New Covenant are you gaining the greatest benefit from and why?
2. When it comes to drawing near to God, are you trapped in an old, broken down system of law, legalism, judging, trying to do things your own way, making it up as you go along, checking things off the list, doing what seems right in your own eyes, measuring others by your own, self-made system of righteousness? How will you break out of this?