

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 8TH-9TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

A NEW WAY (HEBREWS 7:11-14) THE ORDER OF HUMANS HAD TO BE REPLACED

The Priesthood under Aaron was good for a time because it introduced and taught the Law: **the 10 Commandments** and over 600 other commands of God given in the OT.

- The problem is the law has no power to change the heart. It can only define what is right and wrong.

GOD

- Have no other gods before God
- Make no idols
- Do not take God's name in vain
- Honor the Sabbath Day

OTHERS

- Honor your parents
- Do not murder
- Do not commit adultery
- Do not steal
- Do not lie
- Do not covet what others have

THE FIRST WAY SET UP THE PERFECT WAY

The recipients of Hebrews longed to know the perfection that is God, but the Levitical Law could only expose sin and show imperfect people right from wrong.

- **The 10 C's are like guardrails on a mountain road with arrows pointing to the One who can forgive and restore us.**

WITHOUT THE SPIRIT, WE CANNOT BE RIGHTEOUS

The OT is essential for understanding Jesus and why He came. **He didn't come to abolish the 10 Commandments, but to show that only through Him can they be honored.**

- The Law was a safety net of rules until God's people had the power of the Spirit to help them live correctly.

NOT IN THE WAY WE EXPECTED

Vs. 13-14 allude to the assumption that Jesus couldn't be the perfect High Priest because He didn't come from the line of Levi. Jesus came from Judah from which priests didn't come.

- **Jesus came in humility and on His terms to offer a permanent solution to our problems.**

THINGS HAVE FOREVER CHANGED

Unlike temporary leaders and laws, Jesus is the eternal High Priest who is continually ministering and standing in the gap for us.

- **His ways are deeper than rules that just expose sin and define morality. Christ addresses and changes the heart as we grow in our relationship with Him!**

THE LAW (HEBREWS 7:15-22)

THE PRIESTHOOD'S DEFICIENCY

The Levites enforced the 10 Commandments, but since they were chosen by legalities/lineage and not heart and abilities, the Jews had some poor spiritual leaders at times. Even at their best, they were limited and could only temporarily help people.

THROUGH ABILITY NOT LEGALITY

Jesus was part of a new order from the righteousness of God, like Mel. It was His ability and goodness that made Him the High Priest, not a law or list of rules.

- Jesus didn't come from "physical descent" but from an "indestructible life," God. **Jesus' ministry would never die, but last forever.**

THE LAW IS "WEAK AND UNPROFITABLE?" (18-19)

Three statements about the Law: 1) It is weak. 2) It is useless. 3) It has been annulled.

- The 10 C's provide the standard by which we evaluate the moral condition, but it is "useless" and "weak" in the fact that it can't save or change. **The Law is a diagnostic tool that points to what we truly need.**

THE LAW IS VITALLY IMPORTANT

Romans 3:20 says, "**the knowledge of sin comes from the law.**" Without the 10 C's we wouldn't know God's standards for us.

- But the point remains, **to simply follow rules without a true change of heart and desire is not an authentic relationship with God** (Matthew 19:17-21).

THINGS HAD TO CHANGE

It is impossible for us to fully live by the Law. Even if we appear to on the surface, we break these laws in our heart (Matthew 5).

- Jesus came to uphold the standard for us. **He blankets us with His righteousness, so when God looks at us, He sees Jesus' perfection.**

THOUGH IMPOSSIBLE, WE SHOULD DO OUR BEST

Though we will come up short, we are to strive to honor Jesus through **obedience**, and when we fail, **repentance**.

- **Our hope comes from the fact that He sees our inabilities, and His grace bridges the chasm between our deficiencies and God's perfection.**

THIS IS SWORN BY AN OATH

Unlike the promises of man, when God makes an oath, He doesn't break or change it.

- The strength of this oath is shown in God giving His Son. Jesus' character, sacrifice, and resurrection pledge the strength of the new covenant. **It takes the power of the cross to heal the hearts of man.**

THIS IS "GUARANTEE[D]" (V. 22)

This is the only time *guarantee* appears in the NT. God was reemphasizing that a new and better way had come through Jesus.

- The Law had failed in producing godly character because God only intended the law to expose the problem. **We're the ones who try to reduce faith to a set of rules.**

WHAT WE NEED (HEBREWS 7:23-28)

MAN'S LEADERSHIP IS TEMPORARY

Aaron's priesthood had many members because priests died and new leaders were appointed. Another way Jesus is superior to human leadership is He is eternal.

- The Jews had bad leaders as well as good, but Jesus is consistent and never changes (13:8).

PEOPLE WILL LET US DOWN

We're called to respect and honor people in authority, especially elders of the church, but people are limited and will come up short.

- There are people worth imitating (1 Corinthians 11:1), but **we mustn't create idols because we will be let down.** And though ministers are called to a high standard, **please have grace!**

FOCUSING ON THE RIGHT THING (V. 25)

Jesus can meet and exceed our expectations.

- **He is able to save, both in the present and in eternity. He mediates on our behalf** to God the Father. **He has opened the door for our healing and restoration through the cross. His attention is always on His people.**

"...THIS IS THE KIND OF HIGH PRIEST WE NEED"

V. 26 shows the contrast of man's abilities to lead vs. God's. He is "holy" and "innocent," meaning Jesus is the perfect accomplishment of all God requires.

- No blame or guilt can be put on Christ, because He has committed no offense or sin. He is pure of any wrongdoing.

"...SEPARATED FROM SINNERS"?

This isn't referring to distance. Jesus is always close, but not in nature. His nature is perfect, unlike ours, but **if we invite Him into our lives, we start to take on the nature of Christ.**

- **Jesus can serve and meet the needs of sinful people and bring those willing into salvation.**

HE IS "EXALTED ABOVE THE HEAVENS"

Jesus wasn't just a good man, He is divine and **His name is above all names** (Philippians 2:9).

- He is not a high priest from an earthly order, but **He is THE High Priest because of the power of God. He experienced the human condition and never yielded to temptation or evil.**

IT IS ALL FOR OUR BENEFIT

Priests had to make sacrifices for themselves before serving others. **Jesus is blameless, therefore all of His attention is on us.**

- Jesus only had to offer one sacrifice, Himself, for the atonement of all sin, guilt, shame, and rebellion. This act opened the door to our redemption.

TO BRING IT ALL TOGETHER (V. 28)

The Law "appoints...men who are weak," meaning **we cannot simply depend on following laws to produce righteousness. The Law can only expose the problem.**

- After our problems are exposed by the law, **we need a Savior to rework our heart and mind to align our lives to honor God.**

CLARITY ON THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

- The Law exposes sin but cannot absolve it.
- We must know that **we cannot completely follow the Law. This is why we must be dependent on the Spirit and grace of God.**
- Following rules is not a relationship with God, but **seeking Him first will lead us into honoring the commands of God.**

LET'S DIG DEEPER

- We understand the 10 C's expose sin, but have we bought into the lie that simply following rules equals righteousness?
- Or, is it the other extreme? Have we convinced ourselves that God has no definitive standards, and that since He loves us, there are no boundaries?
- Are we seeking affirmation for our choices, or are we striving to find truth and conform to God's standards?
- **Loving Jesus is demonstrated in obedience to His Word and principles.** Do we love the ways of the Lord? Do we feel conviction when we drift out of alignment?

WHAT IS THE STATE OF OUR HEART?

- **Why are we in this room?** Obligation, habit, guilt, social/family pressure, selfish gain, or is it to seek out the path/truth and foster a relationship with our Creator?
- **Are we willing to humble ourselves and acknowledge salvation, restoration, and change are impossible by our effort alone?**