

Nov 19, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

Mediator of the New Covenant Heb 12:14-15, 18-29

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson helps us understand Jesus' role as the **Mediator of the New Covenant**. The study's aim is to gain a greater appreciation for the central role of Jesus Christ in all of God's plans. The study's application is to serve God acceptably because of the covenant provisions made by Jesus Christ.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Hebrews 12:24 specifically states that Jesus is the "mediator of the new covenant." He is the only one who can bring God's salvation to us. In verse 28, we learn that in His mediatorial role, the Lord Jesus brings us into reception of a kingdom. Our salvation is not just an experience that happens to us one day. The Lord's role as our Mediator brings to us the forgiveness of sins, but it also welcomes us into the dominion of God—that kingdom that God is building in time and for all eternity. We receive much more than we might think. The first thing we need to stress is that this kingdom is received. It comes to us by grace. There is a heavy emphasis on grace throughout the Bible, and it is stressed here again. Our entry into the eternal kingdom of God is solely by grace. It is God's gift, received by faith in Christ. And this grace grants to us the precious gift of a kingdom that cannot be moved. In contrast to every merely human kingdom ever known, God's kingdom cannot be shaken or destroyed. We are given grace to belong to something that is eternal. The text thus outlines the exalted nature of God's plan of salvation. It includes a kingdom mediated by Christ. Next we want to notice how powerful and holy this kingdom is. It comes from God, who is a "consuming fire." Without the mediatorial work of Christ, we could never approach this kingdom. No man can see God and live (Exod. 33:20). But through the work of Christ, God grants us pardon and makes us righteous in His sight. Thus we are able to draw near to God and be part of His kingdom. Given this holy and powerful truth, we ought to "serve God acceptably" within His kingdom. The writer of Hebrews uses the words "reverence" and "godly fear." These terms speak of a humble, pious devotion to God. We should be awestruck with wonder that we, sinful as we are, have been graciously brought into fellowship with God as He builds His glorious kingdom. What is the proper response to this? Only a humble surrender to do His will and to serve Him with wholehearted devotion. Are we serving God acceptably? Do we have a clear realization of the holy nature of His kingdom? Do we understand the powerful work our Mediator has done for us? Do we realize that everything has changed? All the promises of the new covenant are rooted in grace. The covenant is mediated by Christ. Should we be sluggish and complacent in the face of such truth? Or should we be zealous and obedient, ready and willing to serve such a God and such a Mediator? This wonderful covenant, mediated by the Lord Jesus, is what has sent missionaries around the globe. It is what has raised up churches in every town and city in the land. It is what has made ordinary people extraordinary in their service, devotion, and stewardship to God. Let us all determine to serve Him acceptably.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Because of the cross of Christ, we can become friends of God

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Father! Just being able to call You Father is an incredible gift. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who has made it possible for me to come into Your presence, to know You personally, and, yes, to call You my Father.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him

(Eph 3:12 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 26, 2017)

Series: Covenants with God

UNIT: An Everlasting Covenant

NEXT WEEK

Remembering the Covenant

(1 Cor 11:23-34)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Mediator of Peace and Holiness (Heb 12:14-15)

Peace

- Peace that is different from the world's peace (John 14:27)
- Peace that comes from overcoming the world (John 16:33)
- Peace that comes through justification (Rom 5:1)
- Peace that is controlled by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:6)
- Peace that is one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
- Peace that came from Jesus destroying the barrier to it (Eph 2:14)

Holiness

- Holiness that comes from living as perfect as possible (Matt 5:48)
- Holiness that comes from being purified (2 Cor 7:1)
- Holiness that comes from living a life worthy of the Gospel (Phil 1:27)
- Holiness that comes from being sanctified by God (1 Thess 4:3)
- Holiness that comes from the grace of God (Titus 2:11-12)

Mediator of the Law of God – Mt Sinai (Heb 12:18-21)

The Law is holy – Exod 19:12,16 (18)

- Holy because it is God's command (Rom 7:12)
- Holy because it is perfect (Ps 19:7)
- Holy because it is righteous (Ps 119:137)
- Holy because it is spiritual (Rom 7:14)
- Holy because it is good (1 Tim 1:8)

God is present in the Law – Exod 19:19 (19)

- God's presence is everywhere (Ps 139:7-12)
- God's presence brings rest (Ex 33:14)
- God's presence brings joy (Ps 16:11)
- God's presence is a hiding place of refuge (Ps 31:20)
- God's presence brings is a light of guidance (Ps 89:15)

The Law calls us to it – Exod 19:20 (20-21)

- God's calls are irrevocable (Rom 11:29)
- God's calls are faithful (1 Thess 5:23-24)
- God's calls are Holy (2 Tim 1:9)
- God calls us into His Kingdom and glory (1 Thess 2:11-12)
- God's calls are powerful (Rom 4:17)

Mediator of the Grace of God – Mt Zion (Heb 12:22-24)

Grace allows access to heaven (22)

- Access through the gate (John 10:7-9)
- Access through the way (John 14:6)
- Access through the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:18)
- Access through faith (Eph 3:12)
- Access through the blood of Jesus (Heb 10:19-20)
- Access through the sympathetic High Priest (Heb 4:14-16)

Grace in judgment (23)

- Because God's judgment is based on truth (Rom 2:2)
- Because God judges in righteousness and justice (Ps 9:7-8)
- Because God is righteous in all His ways (Ps 145:17)
- Because God will judge the world through Jesus (Acts 17:31)
- Because God's judgment is right (2 Thess 1:5)

Grace through Jesus' blood (24)

- Because of being justified by Jesus' blood (Rom 5:9)
- Because Jesus' blood cleanses consciences (Heb 9:13-14)
- Because Jesus' blood redeems (1 Peter 1:18-19)
- Because Jesus' blood provides confidence to enter the Most Holy Place (Heb 10:19-22)

Mediator of the Kingdom of God (Heb 12:25-29)

Do not refuse the call of the kingdom (25)

- Do not refuse because it is unwise (Prov 8:33)
- Do not refuse because it leads to poverty and shame (Prov 13:18)
- Do not refuse because it leads to despising oneself (Prov 15:32)
- Do not refuse because it leads to following and serving other gods (Jer 11:10)
- Do not refuse because of stubbornness (Zech 7:11)

Kingdom that can't be shaken (26-27)

- God's kingdom will endure all generations (Ps 145:13)
- God's kingdom is an eternal kingdom (Dan 4:3)
- God's kingdom will never end (Luke 1:32-33)
- God's kingdom will be reigned by Jesus for ever and ever (Rev 11:15)
- God's kingdom will be upheld and ruled with righteousness from now and forever (Isa 9:7)

Serving the kingdom (28)

- Serve by being a servant (Matt 20:26-28)
- Serve by being eager to help (2 Cor 9:1-2)
- Serve by helping God's people (Heb 6:10)
- Serve faithfully (1 Cor 4:1-2)
- Serve by being God's fellow worker (1 Cor 3:8-9)

Kingdom fire (29)

- A fire that devours (Ps 50:3)
- A fire that consumes foes (Ps 97:3)
- A fire that contains God's rebuke (Isa 66:15)
- A fire that comes with God's judgment (Heb 10:27)