

Nov 12, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

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

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

The blood of Christ washes away our sins

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:

Hebrews compares the old covenant initiated by Moses (9:1–23) with the new covenant initiated by Jesus (9:24–10:18). As High Priest and “mediator of a new covenant” (9:15), Christ did not offer the blood of animals (9:19) that could not take away sins; He sacrificed Himself “once for all to do away with sin” (9:26).

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission

(Heb 9:22 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 29, 2016)

Series: Covenants with God

UNIT: An Everlasting Covenant

NEXT WEEK

Mediator of the New Covenant

(Hebrews 12:14-15, 18-29)

Promise of a New Covenant Jeremiah 31:27-34

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines the provisions of the covenant and what distinguishes the **Promise of a New Covenant** from other covenants. The study's aim is to realize that the new covenant involves an internalization of God's truths. The study's application is to obey biblical truths not merely externally but internally (from the heart).

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

The beautiful promise of a new covenant was given during a terribly dark time in the history of Judah. The Babylonian invasion, with the destruction of Jerusalem, was just around the corner. Jeremiah, God's faithful prophet at that time, was under fire, frequently harassed, and even imprisoned. The situation was bleak. Part of Jeremiah 31 is a prophecy of the suffering to come. The Lord made reference to the nation being plucked up and thrown down. Yet it would also be built up and planted again (vs. 28). Ultimately, the new covenant's fulfillment depended on Christ, who came to replace an old covenant that could not supply what sinful and suffering souls needed. The promises of the new covenant are better (Heb. 8:6). Let us look at what they are. First, there is the promise of regeneration, new life in Christ. The text states that in the workings of the new covenant, God will put His "law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts." This speaks of the transforming power of God. It is one thing to try to follow a law or command that exists outside of us. But when that law is part of our inward man, the entire dynamic of life is changed. We are given an inward power to fulfill God's law. So the new covenant includes within its vision the gift of the Holy Spirit who indwells the believer at the moment of regeneration. This new life within grants an agreement with God in the inner man. No longer are we oriented chiefly to serving our self-centered desires. With new life within, we suddenly have the capacity to grow in our love for God and our desire to fulfill His commands. This makes the Christian life possible. A spiritual transformation has taken place. A second promise of the new covenant is an abiding relationship with God. After the enactment of the new covenant, God says that He "will be their God, and they shall be my people." At the moment of saving faith, we enter this covenant and are no longer estranged from God. We have been brought near and have full knowledge that we belong to Him forever. He is our God, and we are His people. We know from that moment on that He will never leave us or forsake us. No foe shall overtake us. No enemy can have victory over us. We belong to God. The promises of the new covenant, fulfilled ultimately in Christ, are, to sum it up, regeneration (new life) and relationship. This gives hope and confidence that lives can be rebuilt in Christ. Just as the ancient nation of Judah was given a promise that they would be rebuilt and reestablished after the exile, so also we realize that God builds lives through the power of His new covenant. The presence of God in the Person of the Holy Spirit grants new life and the capacity for continued transformation. We should never give up in the journey of the Christian life. Circumstances can be discouraging, and our failures are always with us, but the promise of the new covenant is that all lives can be rebuilt by God's saving and transforming grace. Through Him, victory is certain!

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Hope for Justification (Jer 31:27-30)

Justification through love (27-28)

Justified by God's everlasting love (Jer 31:3)

Justified by God's love because He made us His child (1 John 3:1-3)

Justified by God's love because Jesus sacrificed Himself for us (Rom 5:8-9)

Justified by God's love because belief in Jesus brings eternal life (John 3:16)

Justification through mercy (29-30)

God's mercy is expressed through justification through Jesus (Eph 2:7)

Justification through God's merciful unlimited patience (1 Tim 1:16)

Justification through God's mercy by the new birth given to us (1 Peter 1:3)

We are now one of God's people through God's mercy (1 Peter 2:10)

Hope for New Covenant (Jer 31:31-34)

Covenant of a new relationship (31-32)

A new relationship that deals with the mind and heart (Heb 8:7-10)

A new relationship that is written with the Holy Spirit on our heart (2 Cor 3:3)

A new relationship through faith (Gal 3:26-29)

A new relationship in which we are called a Child of God (Rom 8:16-17)

A new relationship that makes us an heir of God (Titus 3:3-7)

Covenant of a new spirit (33)

A new covenant that is a ministry of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 3:7-8)

A new Spirit that is the Spirit of truth (John 14:16-17)

A new Spirit that makes our spirit alive (Rom 8:10-11)

A new Spirit that allows us to call God our Father (Gal 4:6-7)

A new Spirit that seals us until the redemption (Eph 1:13-14)

Covenant of a new knowledge of God (34)

Knowledge that only comes through Jesus (Matt 11:27)

A knowledge of God that comes from Christians being a shining light (2 Cor 4:6)

Knowledge that comes from the anointing of the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:20)

A knowledge that gives us an understanding that God is the "true" God (1 John 5:20)

Knowledge that is eternal life (John 17:3)