

## We're under the new covenant, aren't we 9/9/07

As Christians **we should no longer live under the law but under grace.** It seems really simple, but the problem is most of us find it hard to really grasp what grace really means and live that way. It's all too easy for us to go back to old ways of performing to please and be accepted by God. Today we are going to look at a part of a letter that declares we no longer live under the old covenant but under a new covenant.

### Hebrews 10:1-25

#### 1. Old vs. new - it's easy to see why the new is better

There are a number of contrasts in this passage that point to the difference between old and new covenant:

##### **Old: A shadow (v1)**

##### **New: The real thing (v1)**

<sup>1</sup>The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves.

The sacrifices were just a representation of what Jesus was coming to do. They were always supposed to be superseded.

##### **Old: Repeated again and again (v1) New: Once and for all (v12)**

<sup>1</sup>The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship.

Jesus comes and offers himself as one sacrifice, good for all time and that's it - he sits down finished and completed next to God!

##### **Old: Reminded of sin and guilt (v3) New: God remembers our sin no more (v17)**

<sup>3</sup>But instead, those sacrifices actually reminded them of their sins year after year.

<sup>17</sup>Then he says, "I will never again remember their sins and lawless deeds."

This continual sacrifice is not only futile it also has a horrible side effect, a bit like a drug that doesn't work and then gives you another problem to worry about too. It kept reminding them of their sin. It is so unnecessary, why should we remember our sin when God has forgotten about it?

##### **Old: Never made perfect (v2) New: Perfected forever (v14)**

<sup>2</sup>If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshipers would have been purified once for all time, and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared.

<sup>17</sup>For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.

Jesus does something completely radical - he rewrites our dna - our programming so we choose to do good! (v16) But more than this we take on

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his righteousness - God sees him in his perfection instead of us! That happened when we placed our faith in him and it stays with us forever! Rom 3:21-22 *But... a righteousness from God apart from the law has been made known... this righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.*

##### **Old: Not wanted by God (v8)**

##### **New: Followed God's plan (v12)**

<sup>8</sup>You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were you pleased with them <sup>12</sup>But our High Priest (Jesus) offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honour at God's right hand.

It may surprise you but God is not pleased when people try and get to him by obeying laws and making sacrifices. - He knows it is futile, he knows a better way, he gave everything to make this better way possible.

#### 2 So what does living in the new covenant look like?

##### **> Boldly entering God's most holy place (v19-22)**

Church is all about being in God's presence together, where he does amazing things in us. No matter how much we fail God, we can still come close to him - when we do he will cleanse and transform us!

<sup>19</sup>we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus.

##### **> Holding tightly to the hope we have (v23)**

So captivated by God's grace we can never let it go! <sup>23</sup>Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

##### **> Encouraging each other to explode in love and good deeds (v24)**

When you fully grasp what God has done and spend time with other people who know the same thing that will lead to a group of people who love and help others. <sup>24</sup>Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

##### **> Meeting together (v25)**

To encourage us and warn us to stay on the grace path

<sup>25</sup>encourage and warn one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

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Jesus has cancelled the old ways of the law and sacrifice; he instead offers us, if we trust him, once and for all forgiveness, freedom from sin, and a life full of God!