

Hebrews: The Complete Work of Christ  
A New and Better Covenant  
Hebrews 8:1-13

We operate in the realm of contracts. A contract is a formal agreement entered into by two parties who inherently do not trust each other or at the very least want to have some legal recourse in case the other party fails in its obligations. God operates in the realm of covenants. A covenant is a solemn agreement made by two parties who trust each other to keep the promises that form the basis of the agreement.

1. Christ occupies a special seat.
2. Christ operates in the true sanctuary.
3. Christ offers a new covenant.
4. Christ oversees a better covenant.

The new covenant is true Christianity. It describes for us the essence of what it really means to be a Christian. It is grounded in Judaism and must be understood in the context. But the essence of Christianity is the internalization of religion, not merely the external practice of religion. It is not just service for God, but relationship with God. We are transformed from the inside out to be who God wants us to be, not just do what God wants us to do.

For further consideration:

What main point has the writer of Hebrews been making up until now? How does Hebrews 8:1 connect to the previous chapters and summarize the main point? How do the old covenant and earthly priesthood anticipate or foreshadow the new covenant and a superior priest? Why do we need something new? How should Christ's position in the heavens help you persevere in your faith, particularly in times of trial or suffering? Did Christ's work for us end with His death and resurrection? If not, how is He still at work for us today and what significance should that work have for us? How is the old covenant not faultless? How is the priesthood of Christ better than the earthly priesthood? How does the new covenant deal with our greatest problem once and for all?