



# HICKORY GROVE

BAPTIST CHURCH

With Jesus, We Can Make It

May 29, 2022

Hebrews 8:1-13

Clint Pressley

***8** Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, **2** a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. **3** For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. **4** Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. **5** They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.” **6** But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. **7** For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.*

***8** For he finds fault with them when he says:*

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,  
when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah,*

***9** not like the covenant that I made with their fathers  
on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.  
For they did not continue in my covenant,  
and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.*

***12** For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,  
and I will remember their sins no more.”*

*(Pastor prays)*

It's been a heavy two weeks. Ten people are killed in a grocery store in Buffalo and all those children are gunned down in a school in Uvalde, Texas. And then you learn that so many victims of this abuse were ignored by fellow Christians, the very people who should be caring and protecting. It's almost more than the soul can stand. We have questions, rage and fear, sadness

and despair. Why is our world so broken and sinful and violent and hurtful? And we wonder with the prophet Jeremiah, is there a balm in Gilead? Is there comfort for our souls and healing for our people and hope for a better day? Take some comfort in knowing that we aren't the first generation to ask these things. For thousands of years Christians like us have lived through and with tremendous pain and suffering and confusion. And they have done so by the grace of God and their self-emptying trust in the cross of Jesus Christ. It's sad the book of Hebrews is providential for May of 2022. Because these people were suffering to the point that some of them had evidently abandoned the faith. And the preacher in Chapter 8 stops them dead in their tracks and says, "Wait, here's the *Kaphalion*." this is the point of what we are saying. And he draws their hearts to the person and the work of Christ.

### **The More You Know of Jesus, the More You are Able to Take in Life**

We need to know who He is and we need to know what He does.

#### **We need to know who He is**

Now the point in what we are saying is this. We have such a High Priest. *Such* is an intensifier. *Such* a High Priest. For example, Connie makes a lemon cream cheese pie. It's not just good, it's *SO* good. So let's look back. What kind of High Priest is He? In Chapter 7:26, notice all of those words. I won't go through all of them but the Bible says He is the Holy One. He is innocent, unstained and different from sinners like you and me. He is reigning, exalted among the heavens. Who is this Jesus? He is the Holy One.

Not only that. In verse 1 we see that Jesus is the ruling one. **8** *Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven.* Now the point in what we are saying is that we have such a high priest that He is seated. He has finished His work at the cross. The full work of redemption is done. And notice that He is seated at the right hand, the place of honor. Here is the ruling savior seated at the right hand of the throne of majesty. Here is the sovereign savior. This is what we believe and it is good for us in what we are facing right now to cling to the doctrine of God's sovereignty. You trust that God is working all things together for the good of those that love Him and are called according to His purposes.

One of the great things that helps my soul each day is to trust that God is in control. I read an article the other day about men in a midlife Christ. This article was written by a preacher and what he said was that God uses the aging process, when you realize you're not gonna to achieve all your dreams, you are not gonna get all that you hoped when you're so young. God uses that to put your attention and your trust in Him. We see Him there as the ruling one, seated at the right hand and in majesty and that majesty is in Heaven. It reminds us that this earth is not our home. It gives us hope for today and for tomorrow. It's why we can go to funerals and weep but we don't weep as those who have no hope. We see Him there not only as the ruling one but as the serving one.

Join me there in verse 2. <sup>2</sup> *a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.* A Minister. I would circle that word. It's unusual. Here in the New Testament that word describes someone who serves in a religious capacity. Serving, meeting our needs, healing our wounds, calming our fears, giving you a backbone and giving you a conscience. What did Jesus say in Matthew chapter 20:28? <sup>28</sup> *even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.* He is the serving one.

Come down to verse 3. He is the true offering. <sup>3</sup> *For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer.* And what did Jesus say the offering was? Let's look at John 6:55. <sup>55</sup> *For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.* We see this as pointing us to what Jesus has done. He gave His life as a ransom. This takes us to the cross and centers our lives on the cross of Jesus. He holds us and He saves us. You keep reading this and you get down to verses 4-5 and you see who He is. He is the real thing. Look at what the text says. <sup>4</sup> *Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law.* <sup>5</sup> *They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."* Now he's talking to these people who were threatening about going back to Judaism and he was saying if you go back there, you're going back to something that is not actually the real thing. For instance, if you got done here today we walked out, went over to the education building and went up to the third floor and went into my office where I do all my studying, you would notice in the bookshelves there is a little model of a 1965 Pontiac GTO. It is a functioning model. You can raise the hood and see that little, tiny engine. It's a replica of a

389 cubic inch motor that has a 3 2 barrel carburetor. You can even open the doors. You look in and there is the four-speed in the floor and it has the cue ball shifter. It's a copy and what I can't do with that little copy is drive it. Because it is not the real thing. And what the preacher saying to his people is that's a copy. That's nothing more than a model. All of the Old Testament imagery is pointing us to the real thing. Jesus is the real thing.

Verse 6 tells us, that He is the mediator.” *6 But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.* You see the word “better” two times. Here's the mediator of a better covenant. What does the word mediator mean? It means the person who is an arbiter between two parties, the one who stands between. Where does Jesus stand? Between God’s wrath and our sin. And as the mediator He takes both and dispenses grace. He's a better covenant. What is He better than? The law. It was the law of God so it was good and is good. But that law of God was made useless by us and our sin. This better covenant is not given in a conditional way to you, that if you will do good, God will bless you. That is not how Christianity works. You hear people say that God helps those who help themselves. That's not grace, that's a burden. This mediator meets us at the cross and performs the great exchange. He takes our sin and gives us His righteousness. And in the time of terrible trouble, pain and confusion, one of the greatest things you can do for your soul is trust who He is. Come swim in the Gospel water and be clean and free.

We say it like this. This is how we know the Gospel . God is the holy creator who created all of us in His image. But that image of God in us has been disfigured by our own sin. That sin is such a defilement of God that it has separated us from God, broken fellowship. There's no fellowship if you're not in Christ. God is not only just, He’s also loving. He gives us Jesus. Jesus lived perfectly, then died on the cross in the place of sinners. God raised Him from the dead and here's the Gospel offer: if you would believe it, you will be saved. But in order for the Gospel to be good, you actually must receive it. You turn from your sin and by faith believe in what Christ has done for you.

The more you know of Jesus, the more you are able to take in this life. We need to know who He is.

We need to know what He has done

What has he done for us? Well, to explained that, the preacher has quoted from Jeremiah 31. This is the longest Old Testament quote in the New Testament. Join me there in verse 8.

*<sup>8</sup>For he finds fault with them when he says:*

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,  
when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah,*

Notice how the preacher starts this with, he says. This is God speaking. What does God say He will do in Christ? Let's look at this a couple of different ways. Let's first run through the “I will” statements in this passage.

**I will** establish a new covenant.

**I will** put my laws into their hearts and minds.

**I will** be their God; they will be my people.

**I will** be merciful toward their iniquities.

**I will** remember their sins no more. This is divine initiative. What does God do in the life of a Christian? What does He do? Here is the first one. God **conciliates**, he **reconciles**. *“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.* Let’s take a look at the history of God’s people. There is a king who emerged named Saul. He was king over Israel. He was a bad king. God took him away and made David king. He was the picture king, the one who would point to the Messiah. David ruled over God's people. He had a son named Solomon who reigned after him. Solomon reigned over one unified kingdom. Solomon was not a good leader. After his death the Kingdom split into Israel and Judah and they were completely divided. And the new covenant promise is that God brings people who were at one point divided back together. This is why we can joyfully have a diverse church. Because it is the gospel of Jesus that holds us together. This is why a marriage can last joyfully between two sinners, because it is the Gospel. This is why broken friendships can be mended. This is why disputes can be settled. It is the gospel power.

What else does He do? You can see it in verse 9. He not only conciliates, he **compensates**. <sup>9</sup> *not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant,* The Old Testament covenant is God will bless but you must be faithful. A new covenant is Christ, His righteousness because our righteousness is filthy rags. Let me say it another way. You would lose your Christianity every single day if it were up to you. This new covenant tells us that God compensates. It's not based on what *you* do. The whole covenant of being a Christian is based on everything that *Jesus* has done. Let's talk about conversion. Let's see what conversion looks like. It's in verse 10.

It changes us on the inside. This is not behavior management; this is something that happens to you. <sup>10</sup> *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.* Here is the nature of true conversion. Think about what God did on Mount Sinai. Remember the two tablets God gave Moses. The finger of God wrote in stone the Ten Commandments. That's the external. What this new covenant is that God is not writing in stone like He did with the Ten Commandments, it's in you. I will put it in you. It's not on stone but within our hearts and our minds. The nature of true conversion is something that happens that God does in you.

Not only that, He changes our relationship with Him. Do you see that in verse 10? <sup>10</sup> *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

That's a beautiful phrase. It's how you understand the fatherhood of God, that you are a daughter of God through faith in Jesus Christ. It's how do you understand what it actually means to belong to Him. So what does God do? Verse 11 says that He makes it personal. See what it says in verse 11. You don't have to tell them over and over again because they will know me. Do you know that you can know the mind of God through the Bible? You can take your problems and hurts and pains to God and you can ask Him to act. Do you know you can live with trust in God and His sovereignty and you can walk with confidence? You can look back in your life and all that you've been through and that's providence. Verse 11 tells us that He is

indiscriminate. You see from the very least to the greatest. <sup>11</sup> *And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.* We used to say it like this: the ground and the cross is level.

One of the beautiful things about the truth of grace is that it takes an equal amount of grace to save us all. What does verse 12 say He does? <sup>12</sup> *For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.*” He forgives. God says that in this new covenant, I will be merciful toward their iniquities. Take those two words, “merciful” and “iniquity.” Iniquity is the understanding that something is wrong and doing it anyway. Mercy is not getting the punishment we deserve. The wages of sin is death. And yet, Jesus takes that death for everyone who will believe. He forgives. He not only forgives, He forgets. I will be merciful toward their iniquities; I will remember their sins no more. You see, you remember your sin, God doesn't. You keep bringing it up. You keep bringing it up to the Lord and He checks with the records. There used to be a record, but you see Jesus broke into the vault of your sin and took all the records of your sin and nailed them to the cross. This is what He does. He not only forgives but He forgets.

Verse 13 is that He makes us new. <sup>13</sup> *In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.* Obsolete, growing old, vanished. The new covenant.

You see the more you know about who He is and what He has done, the more you know of Jesus, the more you are able to take what you've got to take out there. I want you to know who He is, the holy, ruling, mediator. I want you to know what He does: He strengthens, reconciles, He's merciful, He forgives and forgets. Come and meet this Jesus who is such a great high priest.

*(Pastor prays)*