

Hebrews - Jesus the Final Word: Knowing God

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Hebrews 8:1-13

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Reflection & Discussion

There is no way to obey yourself to closeness with God

Obedience in and of itself doesn't mean we are close to God.

*In what ways is obedience related to our closeness with God?

*Why is obedience alone not enough?

God wants to be close to us – to love us, give us mercy and help us

Read and discuss Hebrews 8:6-9 (NIV)

⁶ But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

⁷ For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another.

⁸ But God found fault with the people and said:

“The days are coming, declares the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant

with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

⁹ It will not be like the covenant

I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,
and I turned away from them,
declares the Lord.

*What do these verses say is better about this new covenant relationship with God?

*In your experience, why isn't fear, duty, or reward enough to keep us faithful? What examples show this?

The new covenant starts with a new heart and a new mind... and that works its way out into our lives

Read and discuss Hebrews 8:10-13 (NIV)

¹⁰ This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel
after that time, declares the Lord.

I will put my laws in their minds
and write them on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

¹¹ No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

¹² For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

¹³ By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

*What does it mean to you that the new covenant is entirely dependent on God?

*Share what ‘knowing the Lord’ looks like in your life.

It is only in the context of God’s constant, secure love that we will find ourselves loving him in return

Learning to love God from your heart ALWAYS leads to obedience... without fail

*Why does falling in love with God change us? How have you seen (or not yet seen) that the love of God changes your ability to obey?

*What would it look like for you to shift your focus from praying for God to change you and instead pray for God to help you know you are loved?

*Are there places you are feeling insecure and unloved that leads to difficulty to obey?

*What is the Spirit saying to you about God and his love for you revealed through Jesus?

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