

A New and Living Way

Introduction...

Our Lesson from Hebrews ten

Hebrews 10:19-25. *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

What key lessons do we have here?

Have you studied this passage of Scripture?

What is the writer saying, why is he saying it and how does it impact our lives?

<i>A new way implies an old way</i>

What was the Old Way?

God had created mankind in perfect fellowship with Himself. Genesis 2:7-17.

Mankind disobeyed God and sin entered the human race and separated us from God & His purpose. Gen. 3:1-24.

God introduced a 'provision' for sinful humanity - covenant/s based on 'works for reward'. Mosaic covenant. 10 Commandments & rules, sacrifices, etc. Exodus & Leviticus.

Paul clearly outlines the human condition & its hopelessness & mans inability to please God by 'religious works'. Rom. Chaps. 1,2,3.

Romans is an important study to understand the history of humanity, it's fall and depravity, it's utter hopelessness, the futility of religious effort, God's redemptive plan and it's execution, the amazing acquittal, regeneration, new creation & victory that is now ours and how we live as God's people.

Have you read through the book of Romans?.

The Old Covenant

What is a Covenant?

A Covenant is a 'binding perpetual agreement'

Hebrews 9:1. *Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary.*

Hebrews 10:1-4. *The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. 2If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. 3But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, 4because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*

The Old Covenant was based on ‘reward for work’.

Sinful people attempting to satisfy a Holy God.

Retaining a guilty conscience.

Sin is never taken away.

Covenant - a word not used much - but, a strong word.

Conditional and unconditional covenants.

A contract is unlike a covenant. With a contract, if a party violates it, the contract is void. With a Covenant - it is perpetually valid/binding.

Many Christians still live by ‘reminders’ of sin – they live ‘in guilt’.

Do you constantly ‘feel guilty’ - maybe you are operating in the Old Covenant?

God had a New Plan for humanity....

Ezek. 36:26-27. *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my law.*

Hebrews 8:6-13. *But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. 8But God found fault with the people and said : “The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 9 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers 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. 10 This is the covenant I will make with the house 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 a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘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.” 13By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.*

A New Covenant is promised (Eze. 36) with amazing provisions - and unveiled and explained in Hebrews.

Hebrews is a fantastic study of the two covenants.

Let us look at the key parts of the New Covenant...

A New Covenant is promised with amazing provisions and results

A new heart and a new spirit.

I will remove your heart of stone.

I will put my Spirit in you.

I will put my laws in your heart and mind.

I will remember your sins no more.

They/you will know me.

Jesus introduced a New Covenant

Jesus transitioned from the Old to the New.
We must discern what Jesus taught - Old & New.
How does this work?

The promise was a New Creation...

The New Covenant produces a New Creation

Regeneration creates a New Creation.

It starts with the New Birth. Jn. 3:5-6.

John 3:5-6. *'I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit'.*

Rom. 8:11. *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

2 Cor. 5:17. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new*

Tit. 3:5-6. *...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior (NKJV)*

Consider how God created us.

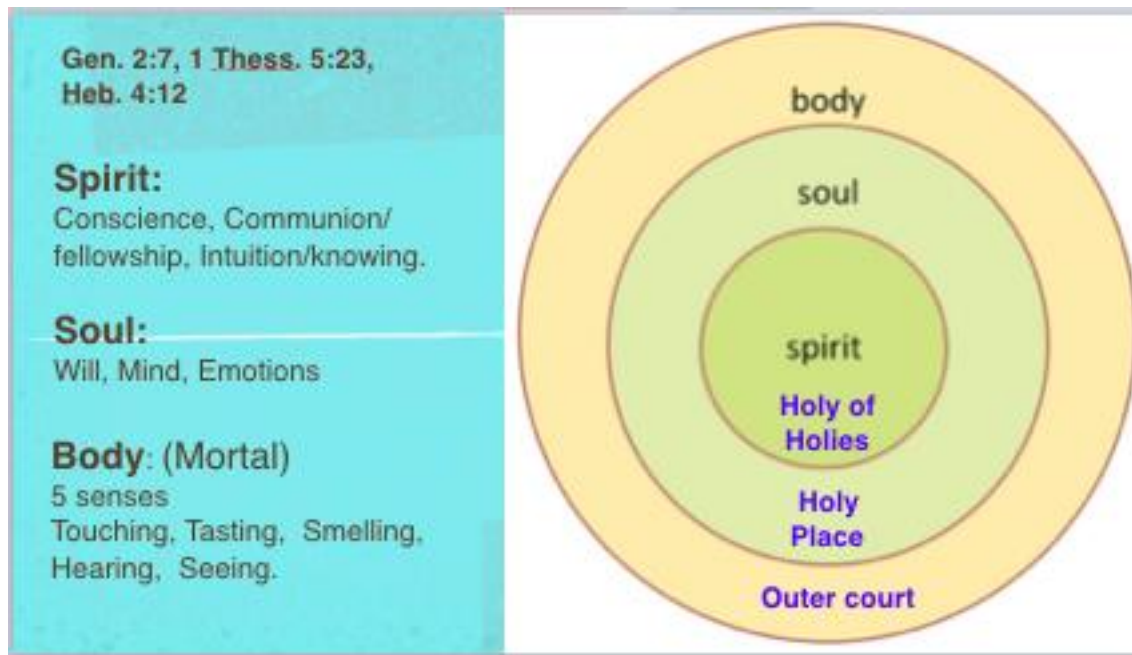
In His Image and Likeness.

We are triune beings.

As a New Creation – God lives in us by His Spirit.

Our spirit is the 'Holy of Holies' – where His Spirit lives.

Our bodies are mortal – our 'inner being' lives forever.



Some New Covenant Truth

Hebrews 7:24-25. *but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*

Hebrews 9:12, 14,15. *He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. 14How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! 15For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*

Heb. 10:11-14. *Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. 13Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, 14because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

The Epistles are full of New Creation Truth...
Paul instructs us to 'rightly divide the word of truth'.
IE: Be careful not to mix the covenants.
Are you continually discovering New Creation Truth?

Let us review our key text...

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Therefore: Because of the previously explained truth.

(When we see a 'therefore' we need to look at what it is 'there for'.)

Approach God boldly because of the power of the blood - by a New and Living Way.

- 1. Let us: Draw near to God ...cleansed from guilt.*
- 2. Let us: Hold unswervingly...*
- 3. Let us: Spur each other onwards.*
- 4. Let us: Meet together.*
- 5. Let us: Encourage each other - as 'the Day' approaches...*

This is our....

New and Living Way

Can we Thank Him for this amazing, wonderful, fantastic, liberating, life giving, purpose filled, Spirit Filled, miracle working - NEW AND LIVING WAY?

Neil Milne
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