

Hebrews

Chapter 8-9

November 5, 2007

OPEN:

If you could design a church building, how would it look? Stained glass or clear glass or both? What furniture would need to be inside? What is in most churches that would not need to be there?

REVIEW:

What problems have been experienced by the people to which Hebrews is written?

What has the writer of Hebrews done so far to encourage the people?

What, according to the author of Hebrews, characterizes the priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek?

Where did the author pick up this notion of a priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek?

STUDY:

Read Hebrews 8:1-7. What is the main point of the argument in chapter 7?

What is being compared and contrasted in verses 2-5, and what is the comparison?

What do earthly priests offer, and what does Jesus offer, as hinted at in verse 3?

What is compared and contrasted in verses 6-8, and what is the comparison?

Read Hebrews 8:8-13. In verses 8-12, the author quotes the prophet Jeremiah (31:31-34). What differences are foretold between the old covenant and the new in these verses?

What has happened to the old covenant?

Read Hebrews 9:1-10. What does the author describe in the first 5 verses?

Why does he write of the tabernacle and not of the temple in Jerusalem?

What does the high priest's once-a-year action demonstrate?

What does this mean practically for believers?

Read Hebrews 9:11-14. How is what Christ did superior to what other high priests have done?

What does this do for us?

Read Hebrews 9:15-22. The word "covenant" can also be translated "testament," as in a last will and testament. How does the author of Hebrews use this meaning of the word in these verses?

What had to die for the old covenant to be effective?

For the new covenant?

What does the blood do for the people, under the old covenant?

Read Hebrews 9:23-28. What comparison is being made in verse 23?

What did Christ enter?

What other contrast is there to the work of the high priests?

For what will Christ return?

REFLECT

In this passage, there is a critique of the old form of sacrifice used in accordance with the law. Would you say there is a critique of all earthly forms of worship as well? Why or why not?

What are the sacred cows of our day, both in worship and in our culture? How does Christ's death and resurrection bring our understanding of worship and culture into proper perspective?