Good Morning to all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

On Saturday we talked of a Son made perfect forever (Heb. 7:28). The sacrifice for our sin finished the work that Jesus started from the beginning. Jesus knew in the creating of the Human race that He would have to die for us. This proves the love of God for people such as us that in making us He knew what we would be like and what it would take to save us.

His death effected a new covenant. This is the topic of Hebrews 8. Now if you have a Jewish friend and you mention to him or her that they are still abiding by the Old Testament, they will be offended. They will tell you that they live by the Torah and that is not old and that it is still in effect. But it is from this passage and from logic that we get the terms Old and New Testament. A Jew would not accept our New Testament as valid even though most of this chapter is a quote right out of the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah reveals 500 years before Christ that there is a new covenant coming.

In chapter 30 of Jeremiah God is promising them a restoration of Israel from their captivity. In the beginning of chapter 31 he talks of their mourning being turned to joy. He reminds them that the LORD had promised them, “I have loved you with an everlasting love” (31:3). In verses 31-34 and Hebrews 8:8-12 we find the longest quotation of the Old Testament in the New. The author of Hebrews will show the important of the prophecy of Jeremiah and its direct relationship to Jesus.

Hebrews states in 8:7 that in giving a New Covenant to people Jeremiah indicates that the Old Covenant was not perfect. Jeremiah and this author, explains that the people of God did not follow the Old Covenant. So a New Covenant was necessary so people would be able to keep it. He would put His laws in their mind and write them upon their heart. Then the truth Jesus would be our God and we would be His people would now be possible. This is because we have the Holy Spirit working in us and He will lead us into all truth (John 16:13). So we would know the truth and that would set us free. The writing on our hearts and putting in our mind is the Holy Spirit working in us.

We are the people of the New Covenant. The Old was inadequate to *do* righteousness. It could point us to righteousness, but it made no one right with God (Gal. 3:11). In this covenant God makes us righteous – not in our keeping of the Law, but in that Jesus did keep it. We gain His righteousness, because He gives it to us. “I will be merciful to their iniquities and I will remember their sins no more.”

So this Covenant becomes the one and only way to God. This author is unknown. We do not understand why the identity of the author of such an important book should have been lost to history. No information or even tradition of his identity is left to the early church writers of the second century. He speaks with great authority and great knowledge of both Christ and of the Old Testament. It is in his point in 8:13 that we might have a hint of an early and quick martyrdom. If the Jews hated Paul for taking this new Way to Gentiles, how viciously would they have reacted when this author asserts that their Torah was passing away? This author’s detailed defense of Christ and His ministry would have infuriated the Jews.

But we have some of the most precious truths found in Scripture from this unknown author. “Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil” (10:19-20). In heaven we shall know who this man is. Today we can thank God for his love and understanding of the work of Christ for us.

In Christ Pastor EA