

God's New & Improved Plan

"No Turning Back" (Study of Hebrews) - part 10

Pastor Bob Johnson, February 9th, 2020

Why a "new" plan?

(Hebrews 7:11-12)

- **old plan was limited ...**
(Hebrews 7:13-19)
- **old plan was limited ...**
(Romans 7:7,12-13, 22-25)
- **old plan only meant to ...**
(Romans 7:18-19)
- **old plan only meant to ...**
(Exodus 19:10-12, 20; Lev 1:3-5, Exodus 26:31-33, 19:16-20, 32:1)

Why an "improved" plan?

(Hebrews 7:20-29)

- **new plan promised by ...** (v20-22)
- **new plan not prevented by ...** (v23-25)
- **new plan not limited by ...** (v26-28)

Truths About Rules To Take Home:

- 1. Following the rules can't ...**
(John 5:39-40)
- 2. Following the rules can ...**
(Romans 7:14-25, 8:1)
- 3. Following the rules can ...**
(Luke 18:9-10)

This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our fifth week of this 12 week study of Hebrews 5-11. Our last week of small groups for this season will be the last week in March.

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). May our church family grow warmer together as we meet in small groups to develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

Getting Started:

Last Sunday morning, we studied the last half of Hebrews 7. We looked at how the 'old priesthood' that was God's plan for over 1500 years was meant to be replaced with Jesus who has become our one and only high priest.

Changing a 1500 year way of doing things must have been difficult!

Speaking of change ... most are uncomfortable with it. What change or changes have you experienced lately that was uncomfortable, but after establishing a 'new normal' it turned out beneficial for you?

Life is a series of transitions! What have you learned about transitioning well from one situation or season to another?

What are some things that typically hinder us from moving forward with less hiccups?

The 'old Levitical priesthood' was meant to only be temporary until Jesus showed up. Speaking of only temporary, what memories do you have of something or a few things that seemed to go by too fast and you wish would have lasted a little longer?

What situations or experiences can you think of that you wish would not have lasted as long as it did???? Even though you wish whatever took a long time to move one from would have been shorter, was there any good that came from it?

How did you grow stronger? What aspects of your character developed while you were waiting for a new chapter to begin?

In Hebrews 7:19, Jesus is described as our 'better hope' through which we draw near to God. God desires for us to continually draw near to God and experience closeness with Him.

We are all a little different :). What helps you draw near to God? Some like solitude, some like singing, some like celebrating with others etc ... what helps you experience God's presence in a fresh way?

Last Sunday, Bob shared how 'religious rules' can't save us, but can deflate us or inflate us. Looking back, how did your religious background or non-religious impact you? How did your upbringing impact how you view yourself, God and others?

Quick Review:

Looking back at your notes from last Sunday's teaching on Hebrews 7:11-28, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, confused you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

Digging Deeper:

In the famous upper room of the Last Supper, the night that Jesus knew he would be arrested and led to his death, he told one last story to break his disciples free from religion. Read John 15 in three different sections as outlined below, and reflect on how Jesus separates religion and relationship in one of his final talks with his followers before his crucifixion.

1. In John 15:1-8, what is the one thought that Jesus is impressing on his disciples, and how can we do that in our lives today?
2. In John 15:9-12, Jesus moves from the gardening story and gets very specific. What is it that we need to do to show our love for God? What will that result in? and ... What is our example for how to do it?
3. In John 15:13-17, Jesus makes this all about relationship, and not merely following a set of rules or regulations. These verses are filled with encouragements and motivations. What stands out to you from this last passage?

Looking back at John 15, what do you need to do, change, or act upon as a result of what we read and discussed?

4. The last passage Bob mentioned last Sunday was from Luke 18. Sadly, religious activity can lead to inflating one's pride and self-sufficiency.

Read Luke 18:9-14.

What insights do you see from this passage that can provide some encouragement and/or warnings to us today?

5. If you have a little more time :), Romans 8:1-8 is a great passage to get us out of the funk that Paul was in as he describes himself as a depressed, wretched man at the end of Romans 7.

In Romans 7, his focus is all on what he isn't able to do.

In Romans 8, he switches his focus on what God can do.

What encourages you and or what questions do you have for us to discuss as you read Romans 8:1-8?

Wrapping Up:

Looking back on the message from Sunday and from our discussion, what is one truth that stands out to you that you can prayerfully ask God to help apply to your life somehow?

Before we wrap up are sharing time, let's prayer for one another!

What are some specific requests we have that we can pray for?