

Sermon Notes

20/20 Vision: Part 1

January 4-5th, 2019

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **Vision: Part 1**
- We have a vision statement here at Good Hope. It's on the wall. Hand motions!
- **Reach Up: A Real Relationship with the Living God is Available to You!**
 - o Connecting with God: We want to get connected with God, and stay connected with God!!
 - o Christian's story about his son Elijah.
- A New Covenant relationship with God.
 - o Last series, "Holy Holidays" we look at ancient Israel and their appointed feasts. Old Covenant.
 - o Now we live in the New Covenant.
 - The transition from the Old to the New is discussed in the book of Hebrews.
- **Hebrews 4:14-16**
 - o Jesus is our high priest...and He is on our side!
 - o So, we can approach God with confidence. This is New Covenant relationship!
 - We approach God for mercy, grace, and help.
- This was God's plan all along. **Hebrews 8:7-13.**
 - o Much of this passage is a quotation from Jeremiah. He lived 600 years before Christ.
 - o **Hebrews 8:10-12** show a very close relationship for all marked by: 1) forgiveness of sins, 2) having God's ways written on their hearts, 3) no need for human teachers because God will teach them.
- Problem: I think many Christians have an Old Covenant type relationship in the New Covenant era.
 - o Let's compare the two and see where you are at. (I'm taking some liberties here.)

<u>Old Covenant</u>	<u>New Covenant</u>
Mediated by a Priest	Mediated directly by Jesus
Get right w/God by rituals and your sacrifices	Get right w/God by faith in Christ's sacrifice
A distant relationship with God.	A close relationship with God: child/friend.
Fear based: obey to avoid punishment, so obey as little as possible.	Love based: Because He first loved us, we obey because we love what God is about.
Obligation. Feels forced.	Sacrifice because we believe in the cause.
Exclusive: we are the chosen, you are not.	Inclusive: heart to bring everyone in.
Rules led. Follow even w/o understanding.	Holy Spirit led. Written on your heart.
Focus on the present, what God can do for me.	Focus on the promise, my future reward.
Transactional. Try to "make up for it" or "justify" yourself by your actions.	Transformational. Become new, "born again" waking up to the good things of God!

- o I think many modern Christian problems would be solved with a New Covenant relationship: legalism, exclusivity/internal focus, bad character, complacency, etc.
- One more passage. **Hebrews 10:19-25**
 - o 3 simple steps: 1) Draw near to God, 2) Persevere, 3) Encourage each other.
- Jesus paid the price for us to enter the New Covenant. Let's remember and honor what he has done for us.
 - o **1 Corinthians 11:23-25**
- Pray for each other before you finish up!