

## - NEW COVENANT PRIVILEGES -

### Christ's Glorious Covenant Treasuring Christ Fellowship Camp 2007 Session 4

**Goal:** Expound with exultation the privileges fully revealed to believers in Christ's New Covenant. Soak in the faith strengthening grace of those privileges.

**Subject:** The New Covenant Privileges of 1 Peter 2:8-10 and Hebrews 8:6-13

Jeremiah 31	Hebrews 8
<p>31"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.</p> <p>33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.</p> <p>34And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD.</p> <p>For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."</p> <p>Jer 31:31-34</p>	<p>6But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.</p> <p>8For he finds fault with them when he says:  "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,  9not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.  For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.  10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.  11And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.  12For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."</p> <p>13In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. Hebrews 8:6-13</p>
Exodus 19	1 Peter 2
<p>5Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." Exodus 19: 5-6</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">And I will have mercy on 'No Mercy', and I will say to 'Not My People', "You are my people"; and he shall say, "You are my God". Hosea 2:23</p> <p>7So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. Exodus 19:7-8</p>	<p>9But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.</p> <p>10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.</p> <p>11Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. 1 Peter 2: 9-12</p>

## 1. Belonging

“9But you are . . .” 1 Peter 2:9 - A “But You Are” covenant! Not an ‘if – then’ covenant.

“10 . . . I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 11And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.” Heb 8:10-11.

“ . . . a people for his own possession . . .” 1 Peter 2:9

“ . . . but now you are God’s people . . .” 1 Peter 2:10

“Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles . . .” 1 Peter 2:11 – Beloved! Sojourners! Exiles!  
(Loved by God and have a home with Him – where we belong).

Don’t strive for what is already yours. Enjoy and rest in the loving embrace of your God.

## 2. Lavish Belonging – Abundant Grace.

### Preamble: Better Ministry, Better Covenant, Better Promises

“6But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old . . . since it is enacted on better promises.” Heb 8:6

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord . . .”  
Heb 8:10

### 2-1. Internalised Law - Jer 31:32, Heb 8:10.

“. . . I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts . . .” Heb 8:10

- Internal Law, New heart – won’t be hardened – will always return to God – Internal Motivation.

God will always win – sin is now unnatural – it will trouble our new heart. We will always return.

Israel went after Idols and spiraled into further sin, idolatry and adultery – and their hearts were hardened against God. Our hearts have been replaced and can not be hardened beyond return.

- Heart / Flesh explained – Understand the ‘New Heart’ analogy. New Heart place within:

19 And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. Ezekiel 11:19-20.

I will cleanse you. 26And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. Ezekiel 36: 26-27

16Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17So now it is no longer I who do it [the real me - renewed with my New Heart], but sin that dwells within me. 18For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh [which surrounds my New Heart].

We are turned into incurable lovers of Jesus Christ – that defines who we are – and that love will always win out.

## 2-2. Privileges of Belonging – Expanded

“. . . and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. . .” Heb 8:10

### Promised Belonging

- Promised belonging: We are His and He is ours, eternally – Jer 31:33, Heb 8:10, 1 Peter 9:10 (Per point 1 above).

### Covenant Security

- We have an Unbreakable covenant, a covenant we will continue in – Jer 31:31, Heb 8:9.
- Faultless covenant – perfectly suited to us, people with whom there is ‘fault’ – Heb 8:7-9
- Receive concern eternally – Heb 8:9
- Under a ‘But you are’ covenant not an ‘if – then’ covenant. 1 Peter 2:9 vs Exodus 19:5-8

### Covenant Status

- A Chosen Race – 1 Peter 2:9
- A royal priesthood / kingdom of priests – 1 Peter 2:9
- A holy nation – 1 Peter 2:9

A prince doesn’t stop being a prince because he falls in the mud – neither does the New Covenant status of a child of God change when we fall into sin for a season.

“A sheep may often slip into a slough, as well as a swine. . . there is a great difference between a sheep that by weakness falls into the mire, and a swine that delights to wallow in the mire.” Thomas Brooks

### Covenant Love

- Own possession (treasured possession) – 1 Peter 2:9

We treasure Christ because through Jesus Christ, God treasures us! We are loved by God.

### Covenant Home

We have an eternal home where we belong - in this place we are sojourners and exiles. 1 Peter 2:11. We belong in heaven with Jesus – that is our home.

## 2-3 Know God

”11And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest”. Heb 8:11

- Know savingly & eternally – the greatest to the least – Jer 31:34, Heb 8:11
  - The New Covenant includes men like Paul, James, and John. It includes great missionaries and reformers and martyrs.
  - Yet it also includes the thief on the cross, the woman caught in adultery, prostitutes, tax collectors, etc.
- The ‘greatest’ and the ‘least’ are all welcome.

## 2-4 Receive Eternal Mercy and Forgiveness

”12For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more”. Heb 8:12

- Iniquity forgiven, sins remembered no more – Jer 31:34, Heb 8:12
  - \* The battle with sin goes on. The battle for acceptance is over – won by Jesus. \*
- Purified conscience - purified from dead works. Heb 9: 9, Heb 9:14

## 3. Eternally Proclaim His Excellencies.

These privileges flow to us ultimately to return to God the Glory that is due to His name through Christ.

Excellency proclaimers – We rejoice in all that is Christ is, and is to us, and the result is our heart, mind, soul, and strength are focused as a spotlight on Christ - 1 Peter 2:9, 12

10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. 2 Thes 1:10

See also Romans 9:22-23 – New Covenant Believers are the vessels of mercy to whom God makes known the riches of His glory and displays his power, glory and wrath (towards the vessels of destruction).

As we embrace and believe and understand our place in the New Covenant- feelings, affections, thoughts, and fruit - that are natural and unconstrained - begin to overflow into genuine praise and worship of God. We know and feel the excellencies of Christ and are changed by it. The spotlight of our heart and life is lifted Christ-ward as we are led by the Spirit into the full enjoyment of our New Covenant privileges to the glory of God.

Proclaiming the excellencies of Christ is a New Covenant privilege!

#### 4. We Get Christ – Full and Free Gift of Christ.

- Christ is our Mediator – Heb 8:6 “. . . the covenant he mediates is better . . .” Heb 8:6  
“. . . therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant . . .” Heb 9:15, also Heb 8:6.
- As our covenant guarantor - “this makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant” - Heb 7:22
- As a permanent priest – “he holds his priesthood permanently” Heb 7:24. A perfect priest Heb 7:26-28.
- As Savior – “able to save to the uttermost” – Heb 7:25. Redeemer Heb 9:12 (eternal redemption),
- As our open door to God – able to save “those who draw near to God through Him” – Heb 7:25, Heb 9:8. Jesus Christ is the open door policy of the New Covenant. Christ is the curtain we approach God through (Heb 10:20).
- As our intercessor – “always live to intercede” – single sacrifice is always effective for us. Heb 7:26.
- Christ is written on our hearts by the Spirit – “the Spirit of Christ”, our living Torah - Heb 8:10  
“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Gal 2:20
- Own blood sacrificed on our behalf. One time perfect sacrifice – conscience perfecting. Heb 8:9, 14.
- Christ is our inheritance – Heb 9:15, 28 (“mediator of a new covenant so that those who are called may receive the promised inheritance”, “able to save those who are eagerly waiting for him”.)  
7These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. 1 Peter 1:7-8

**Motivation:** Not from obedience to life BUT From Life to Obedience. 1 Peter 2: 9, 11,12.

“Oh, ‘none but Christ, none but Christ’. Oh my prayers are not Christ, my hearing is not Christ, my fasting is not Christ. Oh! one smile of Christ, one glimpse of Christ, one good word from Christ, one nod of love from Christ in the day of trouble and darkness, will more revive and refresh the soul than all your former services, in which your souls rested, as if they were the bosom of Christ, which should be the only centre of our souls. Christ is the crown of crowns, the glory of glories, and the heaven of heavens . . . So poor souls that see not the excellency of that resting-place that God has appointed for their souls to lie down in, they wander from mountain to hill, from one duty to another, and here they will rest and there they will rest: but souls that see the excellency of that resting-place that God has provided for them, they will say, Farewell prayer, farewell hearing, farewell fasting. I will no more rest in you, but now I will rest only in the bosom of Christ, the love of Christ, the righteousness of Christ.” Thomas Brooks.

Bunyan’s experience. Points:

- Christ comes with both a Scepter and the Pardon.
- Take a good look at the pardon, the terms of the New Covenant, to enable rejoicing in the scepter!
- A close look at the pardon will reveal its terms are written - “New Covenant in My Blood”.

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### FULL NOTES

#### Introduction:

Hebrews 13: 9 tells us that “It is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace”. My goal is simply to expound with exultation the privileges fully revealed to believers in Christ's New Covenant.

Soak in the faith strengthening grace of our New Covenant privileges.

#### Read

Hebrews 8

Exodus 19: 5-8 – reference.

1 Peter 2: 9-12

#### 1. Belonging

Desire to belong – built into our hearts - community. E.g. Bike gang.

Wonderful to have a sense of belonging – empowering. This is what Peter is doing.

Overview of 1 Peter 2:8-10

Comparison of OC belonging and NC belonging – Exodus 19 vs 1 Peter 2:9

Christ entered under the law, kept it perfectly, inherited the promises, and we share in those promises now as a free gift.

A “But You Are” covenant!

“ . . . a people for his own possession . . . ” 1 Peter 2:9

“ . . . but now you are God's people . . . ” 1 Peter 2:10

“Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles . . . ” 1 Peter 2:11 – Beloved! Sojourners! Exiles!

Note the comparison in Hebrews 8 verses 9-11. Under the Old Covenant, you could be an Israelite, a covenant member, and still break the covenant and be eternally lost. And although a believing Israelite was still saved by Grace through faith wrought by the Holy Spirit, in terms of the revelation of God, much of this reality was veiled for those under the Old Covenant.

Hebrews 8 and Jeremiah 31 is all about how God will solve the problem of the covenant breaking of those bound by the covenant by establishing a New Covenant. He will solve this problem of people breaking the terms of the covenant and missing out on its blessing. Some under the OC believed and were saved through faith, apart from the covenant, but most under the covenant were lost.

The New Covenant, fully revealed to us, simply received as a free gift accepted through faith, declares that in Christ God has taken care of our covenant breaking potential and put the keeping of the covenant terms on Christ eternally securing our belonging. The strength of the New Covenant bond is Christ. It depends on Him not us and therefore our eternal belonging is assured.

“9 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.” Heb 8:10-11.

God calls us to view ourselves in accordance with the covenant agreement, bound by the blood of Christ, and not according to our sin, feelings, works, family, employment, church we belong to, our prayer life, evangelism success, conscience, or anything else. We are under a “But you are . . .” covenant.

Do you view yourself, and your relationship and acceptance with God, solely on the basis of who you are in Christ according to the covenant bond?

My first appeal is to you believers who have simply trusted Jesus to save you - don't strive for what is already yours as a free gift. You belong. Rest in that and allow the faith strengthening grace of that truth to wash over you.

“ 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice” 1 Peter 1: 3-6a

**2. Lavish belonging – Abundant Grace.** Grace heaped upon grace – Privilege heaped upon privilege.

The grace of God, that flows to us through Jesus Christ, from the God of all grace, eternally guaranteed by the terms of the New Covenant is so abundant and so lavish that it can barely be expressed.

I'd like to just go through these gathered from 1 Peter 2 and Hebrews 8.

**Preamble: Better Ministry, Better Covenant, Better Promises.**

Pre-ambled comparison of New Covenant:

“6 But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old . . . since it is enacted on better promises.” Heb 8:6

Important to remember this when reading of God's dealings with Israel under the Old Covenant – unique place and purpose in history. Must ask, “what has changed, what is different under the New Covenant?”. Without going into all the details remember when Israel was cast off due to their failure to keep the terms of the covenant that Jesus hasn't failed and we are “in Him”.

When reading about Israel under the Old Covenant, God loves them, he judges, he was a husband, he was patient, Israel were recipients of grace. Yet most fell in the desert, were sent into captivity, fell into idolatry – this was the rule (in spite of some exceptions).

That temporal covenant has been fulfilled by Christ and we are under the New Covenant. New Covenant, a free gift in Christ, is a better ministry, a better covenant, enacted on better promises. In order to solve the problem of the covenant members violating the terms it had to be a better ministry, a better covenant, enacted on better promises.

So when we are tempted to feel we don't belong because of our sin and weakness and guilt and shame – that's Old Covenant thinking – although it has past we can be tempted to place ourselves under its bondage - but we can trust the reality of a New Covenant that doesn't depend on us but on Christ. We belong under a ‘But you are . . .’ covenant – under grace.

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord . . .”  
Heb 8:10

## 2-1. Internalised Law

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God will always win – sin now unnatural – will trouble our new heart. We will always return.

Israel went after Idols and spiraled into further sin, idolatry and adultery – and their hearts were hardened against God. Our hearts have been replaced.

- Heart / Flesh explained – Understand the ‘New Heart’ analogy. New Heart place within

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I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. Ezekiel 36: 26-27

16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it (the real me - renewed with my New Heart), but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh (which surrounds my New Heart).

We are turned into incurable lovers of Jesus Christ – that love will always win out.

## 2-2 Privileges of Belonging – Expanded

“. . . and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. . .” Heb 8:10

### To secure our belonging

#### Promised Belonging

- Promised belonging: We are His and He is ours, eternally – Jer 31:33, Heb 8:10, 1 Peter 9:10 (Per point 1 above).

#### Covenant Security

- We have an Unbreakable covenant, a covenant we will continue in – Jer 31:31, Heb 8:9.
- Faultless covenant – perfectly suited to us, people with whom there is ‘fault’ – Heb 8:7-9
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### **2-3 Know God**

"11And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest". Heb 8:11

- Know savingly & eternally – the greatest to the least – Jer 31:34, Heb 8:11

- The New Covenant includes men like Paul, James, and John.

- Yet also includes the thief on the cross, the woman caught in adultery, prostitutes, and tax collectors, etc. Includes all those who believe.

"Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."" John 6:29

- Take heart! The New Covenant embraces the least as well as the greatest. It includes all who know him, all those of faith:
  - whether strong or weak faith
  - whether abounding in good works or simply having walked with God (e.g. Enoch).

### **2-4 Receive Eternal Mercy and Forgiveness**

"12For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more". Heb 8:12

- Iniquity forgiven, sins remembered no more – Jer 31:34, Heb 8:12

\* The battle with sin goes on. The battle for acceptance is over – won by Jesus. \*

This passages tells us that although our sin goes on, our separation from God as a result does not. This problem is solved in the New Covenant.

- Purified conscience - purified from dead works. Heb 9: 9, Heb 9:14

## **3. Eternally Proclaim His excellencies.**

These privileges flow to us ultimately to return to God the Glory that is due to His name through Christ.

Excellency proclaimers – We are a spotlight on Christ - 1 Peter 2:9, 12

Spotlight on Christ – God's purpose.

10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. 2 Thes 1:10

Even though we struggle with sin we proclaim the excellencies of his grace and mercy.

When we sin know . . .

Rom 9:22-23 - New Covenant believers are the vessels of mercy to whom God makes known the riches of His glory and displays his power, glory and wrath (towards the vessels of destruction).

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#### 4. We Get Christ – Full and Free Gift of Christ.

25Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. 26For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. 28For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. Hebrews 7:26-28

- Christ is our Mediator – Heb 8:6
- As our covenant guarantor - “this makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant” - Heb 7:22. (Guarantor – rich uncle analogy).
- As a permanent priest – “he holds his priesthood permanently” Heb 7:24.
- Perfect priest Heb 7:26-28
- As Savior – “able to save to the uttermost” – Heb 7:25. Redeemer Heb 9:12 (eternal redemption),
- As our open door to God – able to save “those who draw near to God through Him” – Heb 7:25, Heb 9:8. Jesus Christ is the open door policy of the New Covenant. Christ is the curtain we approach God through (Heb 10:20).
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- Christ is written on our hearts by the Spirit – “the Spirit of Christ”, our living Torah - Heb 8:10. “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Gal 2:20
- Own blood sacrificed on our behalf. One time perfect sacrifice – conscience perfecting. Heb 8:9, 14.
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Bunyan’s experience. Points:

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- Take a good look at the pardon, the terms of the New Covenant, to enable rejoicing in the scepter!
- A close look at the pardon will reveal its terms are written - “New Covenant in My Blood”.