

Hebrews 7.11

Hard Changes

There is much difficulty in change. It is hard for us, we find familiarity to be comforting, even when it is destructive and toxic. We take comfort in the known, ease in the predictable, and joy in the predictable paths. Ritual, tradition, habit... these are all part of the problem when we begin to address fundamental changes in our lives.

How many diets, new goals, jobs, friendships and even marriages and families have been destroyed by a basic inability to leave behind that which was before? What we have "always known" is often so much more attractive than the unknown mystery which lies just around the corner. But the old is not always the best and the past is usually best left there... God calls us daily to dwell with our eyes on the future and steadfastly trust in that which He has prepared. And no place is that more apparent than when we consider our religious practices.

I. CHANGE IS REQUIRED

A. Corruption must be put off

Romans 13.11-14

B. Sin must be repented

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

C. Holiness must be the target

Hebrews 12:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

D. Our rebellion must be exchanged for obedience

2Corinthians 7:1 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

E. That which is old and broken must be replaced with that which is new and perfect... not something else broken.

II. CORRUPTION IN AARON

A. Tainted from the start

Exodus 32.1-6; 21-25

Leviticus 10.1-3

B. Filled with a long history of abuse and neglect.

Ezekiel 34.1-10

1. Neither the wickedness of the people nor the corruption of the priests could force God to remove the priesthood until the appointed end and the time of it had come.
2. He did not remove it until He had brought about what was more excellent. Christ Jesus.

Ezekiel 34.11-16

John 10.11-16

III. SET THE OLD ASIDE

- A. The Order of Aaron had fulfilled its role -
 1. It had been the means to come to God and be forgiven of our sin...
 2. But the effectiveness of ANY religious action is solely dependent upon the pleasure of God. We don't get to just make it up. He established the priesthood of Aaron... but He also has ended it.

Galatians 4.21-25

3. Therefore it is no longer a path to righteousness, nor are the things associated with it. These things are the bondages spoken of (not these alone by any means)

- a. Dietary restrictions
 - b. Observations of Sabbaths and feasts
 - c. Animal sacrifices
4. We must be always on our guard against anything that would replace Christ and His work with ours... the religious observances which promise some efficacy in forgiveness, in righteousness, in favor with God. All of them are false and are man's lies seeking to bind us back in to broken old systems.
- B. There is a season for new.
- 1. We are cautioned not be quick to change for the sake of change.

Proverbs 24:21 (NKJV) ²¹ My son, fear the Lord and the king; Do not associate with those given to change;

- 2. But we are also commanded to be transformed... to be made new

Romans 12.1-2

- C. All things have been made new

IV. PURITY IN THE NEW PRIESTHOOD

- A. No history of sin –

Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses,

but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

B. No personal sin - Aaron and his sons had to offer a sin offering for their own sin before they could approach the altar on behalf of the people.

C. Come to fulfill the plan of God –

Matthew 26:42 (NKJV) ⁴² Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

D. Come to create a way for us to be truly and finally forgiven. No longer trapped in an endless cycle of hopeless repetition and continual death... but finally and fully delivered from sin. From its hold and its ravages.

E. At the heart of it all, THIS is the change that we need and THIS is the change that God provides in Christ. It has nothing to do with our actions of righteousness and everything to do with HIS action of substitution. He has fulfilled the will and purpose of God, and in so doing has given us His own perfect relationship with the God of the universe.

2Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV) ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

F. Paul gives us his own final analysis on the law and our relationship unto it in Philippians

Philippians 3.3-11