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Know the Lord — Hebrews 8:1-13

Warm-Up Question:

What is one thing from your youth that is now obsolete that you think the younger generation is missing out on? What is something you are glad is now obsolete?

READ: Hebrews 8:1-13

I. Know the Lord: The End of Your Religion

- ▶ Human religion - The book of Hebrews challenges the church to stop clinging to old and obsolete religion. Specifically, the writer addresses the three pillars of all religions: the temple, the priest, and the sacrifices. How does Jesus fulfill each of these requirements?
- ▶ Religion is anything we do to get the blessed life and a sense of significance and transcendence. What might the early Jewish believers have used as their center to find the blessed life? What idols are we tempted to center our life around?
- ▶ Religion of goodness - The highest form of religion is our devotion to our own goodness. Read Keller's quote in the margin. How can religion (good deeds) be more of a barrier to trusting Jesus than irreligion (overt sin)?

II. Know the Lord: His Commitment

- ▶ Big idea... You no longer need religion; you have the Ultimate Priest. Read Hebrews 10:11-12. How does the knowledge that Jesus is *seated* at the right hand of God highlight that He is the Ultimate Priest?
- ▶ Rest is a big theme in the Bible in regards to the inheritance of the saints because of the completed work of Christ. Read Hebrews 4:9-10, Matthew 11:28-29, and Revelation 14:13. What are the redeemed able to rest from? What about the promise of rest most cheers your heart?
- ▶ Knowing changes things - How does knowing that our High Priest, Jesus, continues to intercede, pray, and act on our behalf change our perspective, especially in the face of trial or temptation?

III. Know the Lord: His Forgiveness

- ▶ How does understanding the costly forgiveness of Jesus lead us away from the empty promises of religion?

Christians have adopted a whole new system of approach to God... Christians come to see that both their sins and their best deeds have all been ways of avoiding Jesus as Savior. They come to see that Christianity is not fundamentally an invitation to become more religious... To "get" the gospel is to turn from self-justification and rely on Jesus' record for a relationship with God. The irreligious don't repent at all, and the religious repent only of sins; Christians also repent of their righteousness.

- Tim Keller

Prayer:

- For God to impress on our hearts that we are His and He is ours.
- For us to recognize and abandon the many forms of religion and embrace Christ as our High Priest.



SEVEN RIVERS
CHURCH

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Prayer points:

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Scriptures Used

Heb. 8:1 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, **2** a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. **3** For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. **4** Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. **5** They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain." **6** But 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.

Heb. 8:8 For 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,

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.

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

Heb. 8:13 In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.