

Hillside Fellowship Church  
August 8, 2021

The Advocate  
Hebrews 8:1-13

Pastor Dave: Heavenly Father, thank you for the assurance you give us, that you go before us and that you care for us and you love us. I pray today that we might be able to see the reality of that sure, firm anchor that you are. That you might meet us in our insecurity and through our Savior, show us the security we have in him, that we might be a calm, peaceful people in a chaotic, panicked world. So I pray that you would fill me with your Spirit, use me to shepherd and feed and serve your children for your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Well, welcome. Man, I've missed you all. I missed seeing you. Brooke and I have missed being with you. I apologize. Let me just start out by apologizing for the casual attire. I just decided I'm going to wear shorts from now on.

[Laughter]

Nah, that's not it.

Member: Amen!

Pastor Dave: That's not it. I totally wouldn't do that because I never want to distract from the gospel. Our vacation was the worst vacation we've ever had in our en--

[Laughter]

--no, honestly. It made the Disney cruise look like a wonderful time. Day two, I came down with shingles. By day ten, I had to have surgery on my elbow. Dr. Nolan over here saved my life. By the time I got to Colorado, I just had to snap some pics, send it to him. He started fixing me up. But man, it's just painful. So if anybody who's ever had the shingles, I got it in the worst possible place and I am sorry. It's awful.

[Chuckling]

But I'm going to be preaching in shorts for a while because anything that touches just hurts. It feels like it's fire and burning. So anyway, all that to just say, sorry about the shorts. But it doesn't matter. I'm here. That's the win for me.

[applause] [Laughter]

Yeah, it's good to be back. Quick announcement. The team has me make this announcement. The Super Duper Meaningful Meeting is going to be August 29 now. There should've been an email sent to you. We'll go through the final building designs, final financing of the project, hopefully open voting that night. So that will be August 29.

September 1, we're going to have, at 7am here, open Q&A time. So Allen said he would stay here as late as needed to answer any and all questions you have. I probably won't be there. It's my daughter's birthday. But any questions you have, September 1 we'll answer them.

September 12 is going to be the annual family celebration. We'll close voting then. But we're moving closer, again, to the facility project. Building a building so we can build the body of Christ that really impacts our community well. And so those are your dates. Allen said, if you don't get it, it's because you want to miss it. We've emailed, it's on the website and now I even said it. So Allen said, if you miss it, it's your own fault.

[Chuckling]

And I told him I was going to tell you that. So --

[Laughter]

Third announcement. Guests and visitors, if this is your first time, I'm so glad that you're here. This is Hillside. If you leave with anything, I want you to leave knowing that Jesus changes everything. And that

he changes us from the inside out not because of what we do, but because of what he does in us and through us to make us look more like him. So we are so glad that you're here. My name's Dave. I'm a recovering addict and alcoholic saved by grace. I'm a new creature in Christ and I'm proof that Jesus changes anybody that comes to him and submits to him. So today, I want you to hear about Jesus from the word, fix your eyes on Jesus and surrender your life to Jesus. That's all my cards on the table. And that's what I'm going to try to do. Convince you to go to Jesus and surrender to him, because he will love you, care for you right where you're at.

So I'm going to show you how Jesus changes everything in Hebrews chapter 8. We're going to start in verse 1. I'll read through verse 13 and I'm going to show you how Jesus makes us secure in a world that's insecure, how Jesus gives us a better legal standing and better legal security. Let me read it to you.

Chapter 8. God says, the author of Hebrews writes this. Verse 1. He says this: "Now the main point of what has been said is this: . . . "

So this is going to be his clarifying chapter. I love this because it's just as confusing as every other chapter. But the bottom line,

" . . . the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of Majesty in the heavens,

2 a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.

3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both griefers and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer.

4 Now if He (Jesus) were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law;

5 who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as

Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for 'SEE,' He says, 'THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN.'

6 But now He (Jesus) has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the moderator of a better convenient, which has been enacted on better promises.

7 For if the first convenient had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.

8 For finding fault with them (Israel), He says (God says from Jeremiah), 'BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH;

9 NOT LIKE THE OLD COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS ON THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS THE LORD.

10 FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

11 AND THEY SHALL NOT TEACH EVERYONE HIS FELLOW CITIZEN, AND EVERYONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, "KNOW THE LORD," FOR ALL WILL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM.

12 FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.' "

Verse 13 sums it up.

13 "When He said, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first (or old covenant) obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear."

So that's his clarifying chapter. But because we're gentiles and because we're removed by 2000 years, we still sit there and we're like, "Huh?" That was supposed to clarify it. So let me walk through and hopefully put the cookies on the bottom shelf so we can all enjoy them together and say, "Ah, I get what he is saying."

So here's how I'm going to do it. If you were to read -- you've got your Bible -- and you were to read through the entire Bible, one of the big ideas about God that you would walk away with is this: God is absolutely certain and secure in who he is. In fact, he'll say things like, "I am that I am." It's a very affirmative, secure statement. Did you see in Psalm 46? I will fill the whole earth with my glory. That's what I'm going to do. God's secure. And that's a good thing. We call that a firm anchor. He never changes. He's secure.

But if you read through the whole Bible, you would also see this as a smaller theological picture. Sin is insecure and makes us feel insecure. Anybody here ever felt insecure? Okay. The people that didn't raise their hand are so insecure they didn't want to draw --

[Laughter]

No, honestly. Insecurity is my worst, my least favorite thing about me. Because there's so many areas where I'm insecure. I'm relationally insecure. Like, when I get up and speak. Has anybody ever spoken in public? There's this narrative go on in your mind, "Man, they're yawning, they're asleep, they don't like you, you should give up, you should quit. Why do you even try and preach? Clearly, it's not good."

There's relational insecurity. We have that in marriage too, don't we? And with that insecurity, you either attack people or avoid people depending upon your personality type. There's physical insecurity. I don't know if I'm going to have enough food and water. I don't know if I'll have a job to take care of my family. That's physical insecurity. So

we make bunkers and we buy MREs and a lot of guns.

[Chuckling]

Because that makes us feel secure. Then there's sociological insecurity. I don't know where I fit in in America anymore. Apparently, if you say anything, anywhere, in any way at any time, someone, somewhere, in some way will be offended. And if you offend anybody anywhere at any time, you're the worst human being alive and we cancel you.

[Laughter]

Well, then nobody says anything. Yeah. Except some people somewhere that get to decide what everybody else gets to say. That's like, well, that's weird. That's sociological insecurity. Insecurity is everywhere. Here's where the gospel of Jesus Christ intersects with that. The secure God sent his Son Jesus Christ, the God-man to earth. Jesus lived a life without sin so he could die in your place, for your sin, on the cross. He was buried and he rose again. He defeated Satan, hell, death and the grave forever. And with that, if you come to him and submit or surrender to him, he gives you eternal security, eternal life. And nobody can take it from you.

That's relational security. I'm now secure with God so I can be secure with you. It's okay if you don't like me or don't like my preaching. That's all right. I'm secure with God so I can be secure with others. He gives me physical security. He provides all of my needs according to his riches in glory. I don't need my bunker anymore. Amen? [Chuckling.]

[Chuckling]

Most people are like, no, you lost me there.

[Laughter]

You lost me there, because my MREs and my guns? Still need those. It's like, okay. Well, I'll let Jesus deal with you on that one.

Sociological security. Of course this world doesn't like me. I'm weird. I believe the Bible's God's word. I believe that God is. And the world says, that's weird. I'm like, really? Because you just told me dudes can be gals and gals can be dudes. I think that's weird.

[Chuckling]

So I'll be weird if believing the Bible's God's word is weird. It's like, call me weird then. Because he's transferred me from the kingdom of darkness that's insecure to the kingdom of his beloved son where there's security. You see how the gospel deals with all my insecurities? And I want it to deal with your insecurities too. So we're a place of secure attachment. Where we're not attacking others or avoiding others. But we're confident in Christ in what he has given to us.

But that can only happen if we know the stain of sin has been removed from our life, if we have a better legal standing. The stain of sin has been removed and that can only happen if the sting of death has been removed from our life. We're not afraid to death because Jesus conquered it.

I want to show you today, through Hebrews chapter 8, where Jesus deserves to be the Big E in your life because he's removed the stain of sin and he's removed the sting of death so we can be secure in him. So I'll walk you through it. The Hebrew believers needed this because life was hard for them and they wanted to go back to the old covenant. Well, the old covenant never worked for them. Didn't work for Israel. It couldn't remove the stain of sin or the sting of death. But they wanted to go back. This isn't abnormal.

You can say, ah, I can't believe they were rejecting Jesus to go back to the old covenant. We all do it! We all do it. We romanticize the past, we catastrophize the future and when you romanticize the past, you want to go back to it. That's why when marriage gets hard and you're like, oh, it was so good when life was single. Really? Ramen is that good, dude?

[Laughter]

Okay. But we do. We romanticize it. Man, it used to be I could just stay at home and watch Judge Judy all day and play video games. It was awesome. Was it? Was it? But that's what we do. We romanticize or we catastrophize the future. It's all bad. Nothing good. That's what politics is. Both sides catastrophize the future so they can -- it doesn't matter if you romanticize or catastrophize, you have failed to recognize Jesus and he won't be your Big E.

Today I want to show you why Jesus should be your Big E. 22 minutes. We're going to rock this. Let's have fun. I'm going to show you first how Jesus gives you a better legal standing. Those are legal terms. I'm going to use legal terms more today. When we talk about a high priest, that misses us because we didn't grow up with a temple system, a sacrificial system and so it misses gentiles 2000 years later. But if I talk about an attorney, an advocate, a representative that represents you to a higher power, that's what a high priest was. He represented the people before God.

So I'm going to show you how Jesus gives you a better legal standing. Watch. Here's where it starts out. Go to verse 1. He says, here's the bottom line of what we've been trying to say for seven chapters. So for seven chapters, he's been like, Melchizedek this. And the team did such a great job. The team can preach! I watched Denman get up . . .

[Laughter]

I mean, Denny's here. I'm like, wait a minute. Homeboy can preach! [Chuckling.] He doesn't just lead. I wouldn't be surprised if he ends up being a lead pastor. I watched all the team get up. It's just astounding how much Jesus has loved you by putting guys and gals here that just want to love you and serve you.

So the author starts out by saying this. Here is the main point of what has been said up to now. He says, let me bottom line it for ya. Let me give you the total sale price, tax, title, license. Nothing hidden. I'm going to make it simple, plain and clear for you.

Number one, you've got a better advocate. You've got a better representative. He starts out here: ". . . we have such a high priest, . . ." We have this kind of advocate or this kind of representative. Here's what he's saying. He's going back from chapters 1, you have an advocate, a representative that's the God-man. He's the exact representation, the exact nature, he's the radiance of the Father's will. You have a representative who's a God-man. That's astounding! Fully understands God. Fully understands you. Complete your case before God while being fully God, and yet never losing his divinity or humanity.

So chapter 2, 3, 4, 5, you have a high priest who can save you. You have an advocate, a representative who can save you to the uttermost. Doesn't matter how bad you are. You can be as bad as Dave Tooker and he can save you, clean you, sanctify you to the uttermost; completely. You have a high priest, you have an advocate, a lawyer, a representative who ever lives to make intercession for you. You're constantly on his mind.

Now let me tell you why this is a big deal. You've got the best advocate, the best lawyer in the world. Most Christians feel isolated and alone. I don't know that God loves me. I don't know that he's for me. Therefore, I don't talk to him because I think he would just look down on me. I don't feel like I have representation because I don't feel like God is for me. I don't feel like he loves me.

God does this in an amazing way. In a lot of ways, the laws in America square with the laws of God. In many ways. And it's astounding to watch. Like this, 1966, Arizona versus Miranda. Went clear to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court used the 5th Amendment to decide on Miranda. You know this because they're call Miranda Rights. Those of you who have been arrested?

[Laughter]

Oh, it's just me. Thank you in back. I see that hand. Bless you because I was feeling insecure.

[Laughter]

When they arrest you, it's astounding because it's methodical. You have the right to remain . . .

Congregation: Silent.

Pastor Dave: You've been arrested! You guys are lying to me!

[Laughter]

Anything you say and do can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an . . .

Congregation: Attorney.

Pastor Dave: Isn't that astounding?

[Chuckling]

The Supreme Court said they had to put that in there. If you can't afford one, one will be appointed . . .

Congregation: For you.

Pastor Dave: You see? Even in America, so many laws in America are good. They square with the gospel. They square with the law of God. God says you have the right to representation and an attorney. And not just a public defender. Listen, when you're broke and you get a public defender, you're one of like 46 clients of his and they're exhausted. They don't live to make intercession for you. They rarely even answer your calls. [Chuckling.]

When you come to Christ, you don't get a public defender. You get such a representative, a high priest that he's waiting at the phone saying, call me. Call me. I love you. I'm for you. And you don't get a public defender that gets in front of the judge and kind of stutters, "W-w-well, your honor . . ." You get the Johnny Cockran junk. If the glove do not fit, you must . . .

Congregation: Erase it.

Pastor Dave: See? You know it! You get a high dollar, God-man lawyer who knows God perfectly, who can sympathize with your weaknesses perfectly and will present the greatest case. This is the kind of representative you have. Now, if you don't want an attorney, do you know? You don't have to have one. I tried arguing a case on my own.

[Chuckling]

Why you laugh?

[Laughter]

I watched Goodwill Hunting. I thought, I got I got this thing in the bag.

[Laughter]

Doesn't work like that. You need an advocate, a representative who knows how to function in the courtroom, that knows what to say. And the author of Hebrews says, this is the kind of advocate, representative and attorney you have in Christ Jesus. Why do you keep wanting to go back to the old covenant? It didn't work.

And now watch. Not only is he the best advocate to argue your case in front of God, he's got the best argument. He's got an airtight, legal argument. They'll teach you in law school. The law should be removed from passion. It should be logic removed from passion. I'm about to show you that Jesus has an airtight argument where every single charge that's brought against me is dismissed. Removed from passion but logic and law. Here's the airtight argument.

He says this: You have such a representative, " . . . high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of Majesty in the heavens, . . . "

Do you know why this is an odd saying? Like, if you were an Old

Testament believer, you were looking forward to the messiah, you had the temple, the tabernacle. This would be a weird saying, because guess what the priest that represented you never did. He never sat down. You know why? Because apparently we sin a lot and there's a lot of sacrifices that needed to be made. And they needed to be made constantly.

So the priest's job, the representative's job was never done. It was like laundry for mom. Amen, girls?

[Chuckling]

It's like, I did laundry yesterday. Yeah, and there's more dirty -- it's like dishes. So when the author of Hebrews says "He's taken his seat," if I take this language forward from Jewish culture to gentile culture and bring it forward 2000 years, you know what I would say? Jesus has rested his case. When a lawyer rests his case, he's like, I'm all done. I've dropped the mic on this junk. I "glove do not fit," you must acquit this junk and the case is going to be dismissed. That's what it means when you rest your case. It says, I've presented all the evidence, I've proven my case and now we're resting.

Can I tell you what the airtight argument on my behalf is? Jesus loves me so much, he forgave me for so much. But I often get frustrated, it sounds, it feels to me I will cry out to Jesus and it's silent. Anyone else feel that? It's like, I need something, but he's rested his case so he says, "Dave, shh. Dave, shh." You see, this is hard for me because I have a persecuting attorney. It's not just myself litigating in my own head. The Bible, Revelation 12 says, "We have an accuser of the brethren who accuses us . . ." What? Day and night. Perpetually. Constantly beating me up.

Dave, you're not good enough. Dave, God saw that. Dave, God knows what you're thinking. Dave, you woke up late today. God knows what you said.

[Chuckling]

That happened. That's a real story from this morning. And now

you're going to get up and preach? The accuser accuses and accuses. What I want from my advocate, my attorney Jesus to argue on my behalf. SILENCE!! That's not true, Father. Dave's actually a good boy.

[Chuckling]

That's not actually true. So I'm like, Jesus, man, I need help. I'm being accused day and night. And Jesus just says, shh, shh, shh, shh, shh. It's okay. I'm like, do something! At least on TV they jump up and say, I object, Your Honor. Badgering the witness! Like do that. Say he's badgering me. Jesus is like, shh. Wait. Wait.

You see, when Jesus' time comes, he doesn't have to argue the case. In fact, it gets worse. He says, Father, it's true. Everything the enemy said about Dave happened. Dave's that bad! I'm like, WHAT!?

[Chuckling]

I thought you were going to plead for like innocence. Not guilty! He's like, no, Dave's that bad. In fact, the enemy might have missed a few.

[Laughter]

Because he's not omniscient. And so, I think my case is destroyed and I feel this overwhelming sense of loss. Like, the gavel is going to fall. But the airtight case is this. Actually, our 5th Amendment in our Constitution echos it. Anybody ever read the 5th Amendment? We typically, like the 2nd Amendment is Texans because it's all about guns. Right?

The 5th Amendment is astounding, because due to the 5th Amendment, even if I'm in court, 5th Amendment says I don't have to self-incriminate. So when Congress calls people into witness, they often say, I plead the?

Congregation: 5th.

Pastor Dave: The 5th. They're saying I plead the 5th Amendment. I'm guilty as all get out and I'm not going to self-incriminate. So I'm just going to say nothing but plead the 5th. That's the first part of the 5th Amendment. You know what the second part of the 5th Amendment is? It says, I can't be tried twice for the same crime. So if one crime has already been paid for or dismissed, I can't be brought to trial for that crime again. I love the 5th Amendment because it echos the gospel and the good news.

You see, here's the airtight argument. The accuser's accusing me. I feel judged. I feel condemned. Jesus says, Dave, wait for it. When Jesus' turn is up, he says, Father, everything the enemy has said is absolutely true. Dave is a profound sinner. And Father, I'm not going to plead for mercy or grace or that you let Dave go. This court is too holy, too righteous to sweep any sin under the rug. But, Father, this court is too holy and too righteous to take two payments for the same sin. And you see, Father, Dave's sin has already been paid for on the cross. So if you demand payment from him, you'll lose your righteousness. This case is dismissed. And the Father dismisses it every time. Because it's an airtight legal case removed from passion. It's simply true. It's an airtight argument.

Do you know that there is now therefore no condemnation for you in Christ Jesus? Because he paid it all, the Father could not, would not, cannot demand a second payment for it. That's worth celebrating. That's the kind of representation you have. That's the airtight case. Now for some of you, you're like, that's really hard to believe, Dave. That's why we call it the "Good News." But Dave, that's really, really hard to believe. You're asking me to trust, by faith, that God feels this way about me because of Jesus Christ? He's given you more than that. Watch. I'm going to run through verses 2 through 6 and it's going to give you one central theme.

Let me read it to you here. He knows it's hard to believe, so he says this. Verse 2. Jesus is " . . . a minister . . . " Now watch the words. It's bizzarrie the words he uses here. Jesus is " . . . a minister in the sanctuary and in the TRUE tabernacle, . . . "

Wait a minute. The Hebrew believers were wanting to go back to the old covenant. The old system. Now the author says, well, Jesus, he's a minister in the sanctuary and the REAL tabernacle. That would have shocked the hearers. You're telling me the tabernacle, the temple we have, isn't real? It's not the true one? The author goes on.

He says this: ". . . in the true temple, which the Lord (made, built) pitched, not man. For every high priest (advocate, representative) is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest (Jesus) also have something to offer.

4 Now if He (Jesus) were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; . . . "

Jesus wasn't of the tribe of Levi. He wouldn't have been a priest. But these priests, verse 5, watch this. They serve as a ". . . copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just . . . "

So they're an earthly copy or shadow of something real and true in heaven that is taking place.

Verse 5. ". . . just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; said, 'Moses, SEE THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN TO YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN.'

6 But now He (Jesus) has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the moderator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises."

God knew that it was going to be hard for *you* to believe that he loved you that much, that he would offer eternal security by grace through faith. It's hard to be loved, is it not? It's hard to believe you're loved when you know and are aware of your own sin. God knew that. So he did something super special.

Let me put it to you this way. It says, "it was a copy and shadow." Let me put that in modern lingo. How many of you have pictures on

your wall? Pictures of your family, pictures of your kids, pictures of friends, pictures of events, pictures of places you've been that you like? Honestly. Just throw your hands up. This is important. Okay, so you all have pictures on your wall of people. Why do we do that?

Here's a better philosophical question. Are those pictures real? It's not a trick question. Are those pictures real? Is it a confusing question?

[Laughter]

Member: No, they're not real.

Pastor Dave: It's a real picture, physically. Physics. There's something there. Is that picture your child?

Congregation: No.

Pastor Dave: Nah. Is it real? It's a picture of something real at a place in time. It's a shadow. It's a copy. But is it the real thing?

Member: No.

Pastor Dave: No. But does it point you to something that IS very real? See, what God does is astounding. He knows it's going to be hard for you to believe. He knows it's hard for me to believe I'm loved that much. So he says, I'm going to give you a photo album. Apple Photo Stream of how much I love you. Is that picture of the tabernacle, the temple, the real thing? No. It's a living picture of something in heaven that's very real. It's the same thing why you look at those pictures. We look at the pictures of our kids and I'm like, aww. Man, I mean, I'll take a snapshot of that. Your baby sleeping. That's beautiful!

Is the picture the real thing? No, but it reminds me of something very real. Do you know what the temple, the tabernacle, the sacrificial system and what I would say, in the new covenant, the Lord's supper when we take the bread and the cup. Do you know what those are? Those are living pictures. A living photo album of something very true

and real in heaven that I can't get to and I can't see. But it's a picture. And that's what the author says in verse 2 through 6. Listen, that whole temple system, that tabernacle system, it was just a copy and a shadow of something true in heaven that Jesus has done for you to remind you of the truth of the gospel.

Quick question, though. Is every picture created equal? Are all pictures good pictures? No. What's wrong with some pictures?

Member: Blurry.

Pastor Dave: Blurry! Right? If you don't have a camera that's able, all of a sudden it's a blurry picture. Why don't you put every selfie as your Instagram photo? Because some pictures are just bad pictures. You take the picture and you're like, I've got that many chins? That's horrible.

[Laughter]

So that's why you take the picture at the right angle. You know? That's why you get Olen Mills to come in and do the [poses.] So you get the good jaw line.

[Laughter]

Because not every picture is created equal. We are a picture of something true in heaven. We're a picture to the world. Not every picture's a good picture. You can be a blurry picture. You can be a messed up picture. The temple that they were wanting to go back to, the tabernacle, he says, it's simply a copy or a shadow. It's not the real thing. Jesus gives you a better security.

Now watch what happens next. Not only does Jesus give you a better legal standing, because you've gotta know the stain of sin is removed and you're declared not guilty. You also need to know that the sting of death has been removed. Watch. We'll go through Hebrews. Go to verse 7. This is where it gets interesting. Many, if not most, Jesus followers are confused how the old covenant, the Old Testament and new covenant or New Testament fit together. So let

me walk through this with you, because the author is going to jump into this. He says this in verse 7.

By the time I get to 13, it's going to be super offensive to some of you, but I'm going to give you a lot of reason to be offended. So you'll have a lot of reason to email.

[Laughter]

No, honestly. It's going to be so good. Verse 7. He says this, you keep wanting to go back to the old covenant. But ". . . if the that first covenant (the Old Testament or old covenant) had been faultless (or perfect or complete), there would have been no occasion sought for a second (covenant)."

So now he's saying, there's an old covenant, but there was something wrong with it. God found fault with it. And so, he enacted a new covenant, a second covenant. So there's a first covenant and a second covenant. There's an Old Testament and a New Testament. Now, here's the thing. For those of you who don't have a Bible, you've never read the Bible, some people are very confused by this. These are real conversations I've had.

Dave, I don't know what to do with this Bible, because, Dave, I was reading, I started reading the Bible. Man, it seems like God's mad. He's like 'Kill them all and kill their animals'. Kill Fluffy. Wipe 'em out!

[Chuckling]

But then you told me to read the New Testament and it's like, God's like, "I love you guys. I love you so much. Come to me, all who are weary." So, Dave, I don't know what to do with this because your God, it seems like your God's bipolar.

[Chuckling]

Like, he's all over the map and when I go to church, some pastors are like, "You're awful and God hates you! Repent!" And other pastors are like, "God loves you right where you're at. You're okay. I'm okay.

We're okay." And Dave, it's really confusing.

This is because we are confused about the old covenant and new covenant and how they fit together. So let me walk you through it very quickly. The Bible is one book that's broken up into two books that's broken up into 66 books. The Old Testament, the old covenant, there's 39 books in the Old Testament. And in those 39 books, there's 929 chapters, 23,145 verses and you're going to find 613 Laws, if you read through. We call 10 of those, the big 10, top 10, 10 Commandants. But there's 603 other ones. It's not that the 10 Commandments are better than or bigger than the 603. They were all mandatory for everybody in the Old Testament.

Now in the Old Testament, there is a problem. If you read through all 23,145 verses, none of the laws could make you right with God. None of them! The Old Testament could not make you righteous. The only thing it could do was point out your faults and flaws. But God was gracious. He gave a sacrificial system. So when you failed, you sinned, there was also a sacrifice that could cover that sin for a time. But it never removed sin. You see, you might ask, well, then what was the point of the old covenant or Old Testament?

It was to point you to Jesus. Galatians 3. It was a tutor to say a better sacrifice is coming. That was the whole point. You say, well that seems weird. We do the same thing in 2021. Exact same thing. We call them movie trailers. Anybody ever seen a movie trailer? How many of you, when the new Star Wars series came out, you watched the movie trailer? It was 2 minutes and 13 seconds of utter delight. Who's Rae? What planet is she on? Oh, my goodness, that looks like the . . .

Was the movie trailer the movie? It was parts of it. It was a shadow, a copy that pointed us to something. But it wasn't intended to be the whole thing. It was to say, there's a better movie coming. You're going to want to spend the 160 bucks to take your whole family to --

[Laughter]

Have you been lately? I was shocked. That wasn't an exaggeration.

It was like, what?! Yeah. But the movie trailer points you to something. That's what the old covenant is. If you read through 39 books of the Old Testament, just straight through, you would end and say, that's an incomplete book. We're waiting for something else. It's a movie trailer.

Now watch what happens. Verse 8, 9, 10, 11 and even into 12. Let me explain it to you. So the old covenant, you could sacrifice animals, goats, bulls, rams, sheep, turtle dove. Let me read verse 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. This was God's intent all along. He wanted to relate to us well. He wanted to attach to us in a relational way that was healthy. Watch. Here comes Jeremiah. I believe it's chapter 31. God says this.

" . . . (He) found fault with (Israel) and he said, 'BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL EFFECT (or bring in) A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH;

9 NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS ON THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS THE LORD. (I didn't take care of them).

10 FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ESRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD; I . . .  
"

In the old covenant, he put the Law out there and they had to obey it. He says,

" . . . THE NEW COVENANT . . . I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

11 AND THEY SHALL NOT TEACH EVERYONE HIS FELLOW CITIZEN, AND EVERYONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, 'KNOW THE LORD,' FOR (everybody in Christ is going to know me), FROM THE

LEAST TO THE GREATEST . . . "

This was always God's intent. He didn't want to relate to you through contract. See, under the old covenant was, "if you obey, I will bless you." Choose this day whom you're going to serve. If you do good, I will bless you. If you disobey, I will curse you and it's not going to go well for you. You can't relate well under that. How many of you have an intimate relationship, a loving relationship with your cell phone company?

[Laughter]

Your cell phone. Like, when you're bored on a Saturday, you call up Adam down at Verizon. "Hey, Adam, what are you doing?"

[Laughter]

And Adam's like, "Ah, Dave. How are you?"

"Good. I was just thinking about you, man."

[Laughter]

"I was just thinking about how grateful I am for the cell phone service you provide for me and I just called to say thank you."

[Chuckling]

We don't, do we? We've got a very contractual relationship. I pay \$152 a month. They give me gigabytes. If I don't pay the \$152, guess what? No gigabytes. It's contractual. If I, then they. That's the old covenant. God says, I want to relate to you so much more intimately than that. But here's the problem. Do you know every relationship has baggage? You brought baggage into your relationship. Every relationship you enter into, you bring insecurity baggage. Do you know that? If you don't know that, then you just attack and blame your partner.

I bring insecurity baggage into every relationship. My relationship

with God. When I was hurting so bad and I was about to text Robert, I was on vacation. True story. I was like, I don't know. Am I going to bother him? Will he text back, "too bad for you. Get over shingles. Have a good day."

[Laughter]

Because I bring insecurity. I bring insecurity into every relationship. And I had to work through that before texting him. Lord, I'm hurting. I know you put Robert here. Even if he rejects me, I still love him and I still love you. We bring insecurity and baggage. If the baggage you bring into your marriage, your family, this church, isn't dealt with, it will blow up every relationship. Your relationship with God and your relationship with others.

You see? Here's the point I'm making. The Old Testament couldn't remove the baggage. It just covered it. The blood of bulls, goats and rams just covered your baggage. It couldn't remove it. Why is this a problem? How many of you have been to White Sands National Park? Beautiful place! You drive on it and it's like, where did all this white sand come from? It's like a movie set for Star Wars. I love it!

So we went with the kids. We even brought our sleds. We got there. We drive in 'til we find these big hills and we're like, let's go sled down, kids. Let's do it. This is wonderful. We park. We climb up. We find some dunes that are perfect. We start sliding down and it was wonderful. I got pictures. I should've brought 'em to show you. But my first sled, I hit my elbow and I was like, ah! And I was done. So then I just watched. But we had a great time.

There was one problem. We were surrounded by beauty, surrounded by joy, surrounded by family. But I kept smelling sewer.

[Laughter]

Anybody ever been there? You're in a beautiful place and you're like, it smells like poo here.

[Laughter]

So I climbed up on the dune and guess what? We were down wind from the porta-potties.

[Chuckling]

Beauty. And it didn't matter where we were. It was like there was porta-potties everywhere. See, they do a great job. They pump in that blue liquid and that blue liquid is supposed to deal with the smell. And it kind of covers it with a chemical smell, but you can still tell it's poo.

[Laughter]

And living down wind from that and sledding down wind from that is really hard. Do you know God lives down wind from our baggage and our sin? And it's really hard for him. The Old Testament was like that blue liquid that covered our sin but couldn't remove it. So every time I sinned, an animal was sacrificed and it was just that blue liquid that covered the sin. But God was still down wind from my sin and had to deal with it. And bulls and goats and sheep and rams and all this genuflecting and sacrifice couldn't remove that sin. So my legal standing, my legal security was jeopardized.

Every time I come to God, he's like, I love you, but man, that baggage stinks. But he did something amazing. Verse 12. " . . . I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

You see, in the old covenant, when he said verse 13, when he said the new covenant, " . . . He has made the first obsolete." I want you to read verse 13 with me.

13 "When He said, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first (covenant) --

Congregation: Obsolete.

Pastor Dave: Doesn't sound like you believe it.

[Chuckling]

And this is a big deal to me.

"He has made the first covenant --

Congregation: (Louder) obsolete!

Pastor Dave: Because it could temporarily cover the sin, but it could not remove the sin. But what he needed to have an intimate relationship with me was that blue sledge removed. I needed a whole new slate, but the old covenant couldn't do it. It's like when I got out of drug and alcohol rehab. I went to Dairy Queen. Can I get a job? No. Olive Garden. Can I get a job? No. I had 12 different interviews. Couldn't get a job. Couldn't make my car payment. That's bad! Bad! So I went to the bank. I can't make my car payment. They said, that's all right. We'll go to an IOP. Interest only payment. And I was like, you guys do that? They're like, absolutely! You can do the interest only payment as long as you want.

[Laughter]

And I was grateful. I said, that's so benevolent of you guys. Thank you.

[Laughter]

I went home and I was like, man, why would they do that? Now I only have to pay \$38 a month, but I can pay that forever. Then I was like, whoa, wait a minute. Interest only payment? How long will I be paying that? Forever! That's the old covenant. It's an interest only but my sin principle remains. But when Jesus Christ came and the night he was betrayed and he took bread and broke it, and after giving thanks, he said to his boys, boys, this bread is my body which is broken for you. Every time you eat it, do so in remembrance of me. Because I'm going to lay my life down for you.

After supper, in the same manner, he took the cup and he said, boys,

this cup is the new covenant in my blood. It's written in my blood. As often as you drink it, do so in remembrance of me. He came and said, you guys have been making interest payments for thousands of years! But I'm going to come and I'm going to pay for the interest? I'm going to pay for the principle! I'm going to say it is finished! You are going to have "paid in full" stamped over your life so all of that blue sledge will be removed and you'll be able to draw near with confidence to the throne of grace! You'll be known fully! My face won't be scrunched up anymore because of the stench of your sin! I will remember your inequities no more! And this is the new covenant.

He made the old covenant, verse 13, obsolete! Let me offend you thoroughly. He has made the 10 Commandments --

Congregation: Obsolete.

[Laughter.]

Well, wait a minute. We're going to have a bunch of lawless, it's like Mad Maxx and the Thunder Dome up in this mug. If the point of the Law is to restrain sin and he made the old covenant, not just the 10 Commandments obsolete, he's made the 613 Commandments obsolete. Then it's just going to be a free for all. You guys are going to go out of here and sin and speed and fornicate and do all kinds of things. Bad things!

[Laughter]

Dave, I can't believe that you said the old covenant, the 10 Commandments, the 603 other Commandments are obsolete. How dare you? In fact, I'll show you. Whoever does away with the least jot and tittle of this book, oh! God's going to be mad at you. AND you probably eat bacon, Dave. Boo on you. Boo. Boo to you and your whole family.

Before you email me -- I see some of you already on your phones --

[Laughter]

Before you email me [Chuckling], yes, I stand by that. Because of verse 13. He's made the old covenant obsolete. You can no longer -- most of you have been raised in this and my heart breaks for you. You went to public school and they said, if you're a good little boy and a good little girl, I'll give you a gold star. So many of you have taken that philosophy to God. God, I've been good. Are you happy with me? I've been good. I'm trying. I hope my good works outweigh my bad works.

That's exhausting. That's contractual. It will exhaust you. It's not freeing. That's the Law. The New Testament says this: God has given you everything by grace through faith in him. You start with all the righteousness of God. Does that mean I can disobey? Listen, Jesus has taken the Law and taken it to a whole new plain. In the Law, it says, whoever -- though shalt not murder. Most of us haven't murdered. Most of us.

Therefore we feel superior to murderers in jail, huh? They deserve it. They murdered. But under the new covenant, the covenant of love, Jesus says, you've heard that it has been said, you shall not commit murder, but I say to you, whoever hates his brother in his heart is guilty of murder.

[Gasp.]

Forget the old covenant. The new takes it to a whole new level. How many of you have hated somebody? Thank you in back. I've hated a lot of cats! Recently!

[Chuckling]

Which means I'm guilty! You see, he's taken the Law to a whole new plain. You've heard that it's said, you should not commit adultery. But I say to you, if you look lustfully, you're guilty. It's all of us. You've heard it said, you shall not covet. But I say to you, if you desire it from your heart . . .

You see, the new covenant constantly reminds us, man, you need a strong Savior. And the new covenant reminds us, go to him and he'll

remove the stain of sin. He's removed the sting of death. Therefore, you can be a calm, confident, secure person in a chaotic, panicked, fearful world. If you take this truth into your heart, it will change you from the inside out. Jesus gives you a better legal standing. Jesus gives you better legal security. Jesus changes everything. You see, the old covenant couldn't do it.

Jesus came to set you free from performance, where you're trying and running and trying to be good. Jesus comes and says, I want to give it all to you from the beginning. Change you from the inside out so that you live by grace and love people fervently from the heart.

Let's pray and let's sing to him for this work he's done for us.

Father God, thank you so much for the time this morning to look at your perfect plan from old covenant to new covenant, your perfect love for us in Jesus Christ that removed the stain of sin and the sting of death. I pray that you would make us that secure, safe people in a scary world that we might be able to love one another and you might use us as a picture of your goodness to a lost and dying world. I pray your heart would be pleased now as we simply sing to you and celebrate the work that you've done for us through your Son Jesus Christ. It's in his name I pray. Amen.

[Ending songs]

[End of service]