

Hebrews 7.22

Better Covenant, Guaranteed!

We know that God has done all that is needful on our behalf for the salvation of a people... but often we fail to fully appreciate the wonder that exists in the reality that not only does He secure our salvation completely, but He also secures us FOR that salvation. Jesus has become the one who, standing in our place as representative, participates in the promised covenant in our place... thus guaranteeing that there is indeed a people to save! We are saved by His power and grace; further, we are also completely delivered unto that salvation by His willing participation on our behalf!

I. OLD COVENANT NOT BAD

- A. it just wasn't designed to save of its own power, what is more it didn't secure any people. God would do all and if needed would use rocks!

“But He answered and said to them, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”” (Luke 19:40, NKJV)

- B. Showed and taught us who God is
 - 1. It had the mark of the goodness of God - showing forth His glory and His majesty as well as His own perfect nature
 - 2. It was a good teacher as to the nature and cost of sin
 - 3. It directed all unto the only means of salvation, Jesus Christ –

“Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” (Galatians 3:24, NKJV)

- C. It established a pattern of worship that was both honoring and pleasing to God in its season...
- D. This testament had its own surety, the high priest himself was the surety of that covenant since his sacrifices were the price and payment... further, it is an equivalency to Christ's priesthood and His being a better surety and of a better covenant...
- E. Any manner of drawing near to God that does not have Christ and His work as High

priest at its core must give way to Christ or be exposed as a fraud.

II. JESUS IS THE INTENT

- A. This is the first time in this entire argument that the author names Jesus as the priest and mediator...
- B. He has certainly alluded to Him, but here He is name explicitly
- C. There were 2 basic questions that plagued the Hebrew church
 1. What was the role and nature of Messiah's work
 2. Who was He?
 3. The first has been answered in this entire discourse, carefully and completely laid out
 4. The second is now declared.
- D. All of the work, power and glory of Christ will do us no good at all unless our faith is expressed to its final point, faith in His name, in the person of Jesus Christ... fully God and fully man, and in Him alone. We can believe in a nameless "savior" and attribute to him all that Jesus did... and find

ourselves in hell for our trouble. It is faith in the name of Jesus that saves. Him who is the Son of God alone has the power to save.

“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”” (John 8:24, NKJV)

““Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”” (Acts 2:36, NKJV)

Romans 10.9-13

III. GOD ACCEPTED THIS WORK

- A. The whole work depends upon God making it acceptable

Isaiah 53.3-12

- B. His pleasure in saving a people

“The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy.” (Psalm 147:11, NKJV)

“For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation.” (Psalm 149:4, NKJV)

““Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:32, NKJV)

- C. His delight in choosing a people to save!

John 6:37–40

D. His absolute willingness to demonstrate to us His perfect grace and matchless mercy.

IV. CHRIST HAS BECOME THE SURETY

A. This work is on OUR behalf.

1. IF God only counted the mediation, the sacrifice and the death of Jesus as our payment from a legal perspective, it is plain that none would be saved... for none of us would trust, none of us would believe. We have to see the surety of Christ, representative **of us all**, becoming sin for us, as both the federal head of a people, and the willing substitute who then dies in our place.

2. When we say "All who will may"; if we go no further, we still leave all condemned. But Jesus became the surety in our stead - guaranteeing that there **would be** the redeemed to come and trust!

B. We were the ones who broke faith with God and broke the original covenant, left to

ourselves we would never have laid hold of the new one either.

- C. We proved ourselves untrustworthy, and uninterested in God and a relationship with him...

“There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.” (Romans 3:11, NKJV)

- D. God established Jesus in our stead as surety that He would fulfill on our part that which God requires of man.

V. SAFEGUARDS THE COVENANT

- A. A surety establishes stability and security
- B. It pre-supposes some weakness or defect on one part or the other
- C. God is perfect and we are already proven faithless...

“Surely you did not hear, Surely you did not know; Surely from long ago your ear was not opened. For I knew that you would deal very treacherously, And were called a transgressor from the womb.” (Isaiah 48:8, NKJV)

1. If someone is proven both reliable and capable, no surety is required
 2. If we are faithful completely then no surety would be demanded...
- D. Further, we are all demonstrably impotent, for we are all subject to death, and thus even if we were faithful, and good in every way, we could still not be completely relied upon for we could die before we fulfilled the covenant. - But Christ is more...

Psalm 102.25-28

Heb 1.10 proves this to be Messianic

E. Further, our very nature while here is changeable for we walk by faith and not by sight, and yet it the final vision of God - seeing Him as He is which will finally transform us and make us fully and completely, eternally righteous... so we need a surety to carry us until we stand in His Presence.

F. That surety is Christ –

*“Then You spoke in a vision to Your holy one, And said:
“I have given help to one who is mighty; I have exalted
one chosen from the people.” (Psalm 89:19, NKJV)*

VI. COMMENDS US TO OBEDIENT SERVICE

A. There is no greater gift, and thus no greater obligation of grateful service than the death of Christ in our place.

1. He showed us the greatest love

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” (John 15:13, NKJV)

2. He calls us to love in the same manner -

1John 3.10-16

3. He served us and cared for us and calls us to do the same

“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” (John 13:14, NKJV)

4. He provides all that we need out of His own abundance and leaves us the example by way of command to live out His example in how we serve and actively love one another.

“Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.” (1 John 3:24, NKJV)

- B. He has carried us intact into the covenant of grace and made us live in Him... He has secured us from the jaws of death... and what is more, He has given unto us His own Spirit as His token of assurance that He has accomplished all on our behalf and that He will keep His promise to return and receive us unto Himself.

2Corinthians 1.18-22

- C. He has given to us all that is needful for our salvation and assures our hearts of the truth of His own work and promise on our behalf.

“Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.” (1 John 3:24, NKJV)

- D. He has secured our inheritance

Romans 8.14-17

E. Our duty is to do His will, our debt is to proclaim His glory... our joy is to worship our King in the beauty of holiness!

“Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Give to the Lord glory and strength. Give to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously.””
(Psalm 96:6–10, NKJV)