

The Old Story for a New Day

Sunday, April 1st, 1990

Hebrews 13:7-8

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”

This is the subject for today, “The Old Story for a New Day.” I’m reading from Hebrews Chapter 13: verses 7 and 8.

I’m sure you have heard verse 8 quoted many, many times, *“Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever.”* The preceding verse goes along with it (verse 7), and must be read with it (verse 8). I’m going to be reading verses 7 and 8. Listen carefully, and you will see why these verses must go together.

The apostle Paul writes in Hebrews 13:7, *“Remember them, (respect them, and listen to them) who have the rule over you.”* This is talking about your spiritual leaders, teachers and pastors who have spoken unto you the Word of the Lord. *“Remember these who have the rule over you, who have spoken to you the Word of God, whose faith follow.”* Follow the gospel that they preach, *“Considering the end of their conversation (or the goal of their ministry, considering the objective of their ministry), which is “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever.”* Do you see now why they have to go together?

One of the problems that we have in this day is the sickness of “versitis.” We at liberty and carelessly lift verses out of the Bible and quote them and say, “This is what the Bible says.” It may say that, but it says something before or after what is quoted that reveals what it means when it says that. *“Remember them that have the rule over you, who have spoken to you the Word of God, whose gospel follow, considering the goal of the their ministry.”* This is the reason for their ministry and the object of their ministry, which is to point you and lead you to Jesus Christ, *“Who is the same yesterday, today and forever.”*

My friends, time and knowledge have drastically changed every occupation, almost every occupation. The reason is because of new tools, new materials, and knowledge. Most every occupation does not even resemble what they were centuries ago. All of these occupations are different.

Think about the science of medicine and how different it is now. Or, think about our government or teaching. Masonry has changed, carpentry has changed, steel making, and

the oil industry has changed. These are all so different because time has changed these occupations.

But, there is one occupation. There is one profession and one message that is totally the same and it never changes. To change it would be to ruin it. To change it would be detrimental to it. To change it, would cause it to totally lose its power. The slightest alteration in this message and in this profession would make it lose its power and would make it to become error.

What is that? I'm talking about the gospel ministry. That's right, the Word of God. The ministry is the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The scripture says, "The end of our ministry, the goal of our ministry, is the same." It doesn't matter if Moses is preaching, Abraham, David, Isaiah, Paul, Augustine, Ignatius, Polycarp, Martin Luther, Calvin, Swingley, Huss, or even me. The message is still Jesus Christ and He is the same of the yesterday of eternity, today and forever.

You see, our gospel (now listen carefully to me), our gospel is the ancient gospel. Someone said, "You've got an old message." Well, it is older than that. My message is eternal. It is the ancient gospel of God's grace. Even, back yonder, 2,000 years ago, or 20 millenniums. The Pharisees said to our Lord Jesus Christ; "*We have Moses;*" They were saying "We go back further than you; we have Moses."

The Lord Jesus said, "*Well, if you had believed Moses, you would have believed Me; Moses wrote of Me.*" Here we go back 2,000 years and they go back 2,000 years and say, "*We have Moses.*" Our Lord said, "Well, if you hear Moses and have Moses, you would believe Me;" "*Moses wrote of Me.*" Moses' hope for his own redemption was in Christ Jesus. Moses wrote of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then, they said, "Well, we have Abraham to be our Father." They go back another 2,000 years to Abraham. They said, "*Abraham is our Father.*" Our Lord said, "*If you were the sons of Abraham, you would love Me; because, even Abraham rejoiced to see My day. He saw it and was glad. Before Abraham was; I am.*"

Well, they said this, "*The Christ is the son of David.*" He said to them, "*What think ye of Christ? Whose Son is He?*" They said, "*He's the Son of David.*" Our Lord said, "*Why did David call Him Lord if he is His Son?*" If he is His Son, and of the Jewish heritage, then why did he call Him Lord when he said, "*The Lord said unto my Lord, sit Thou on my right hand until I make thine enemies Thy footstool?*" You see; Jesus of Nazareth is David's Christ and Moses' subject and Abraham's Redeemer.

There is nothing new about our gospel. That is the reason that I say changing it would ruin it. Changing it would destroy it. If you change it you take its effect away. If you change it, then it becomes error. There is nothing new about the gospel of God's grace. Let me tell you something; from Abel's sacrifice to the 20th century, *"Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."*

The reason for that is this, listen carefully; God is the same. He said, *"I am the Lord; I change not."* God is immutable. The word immutable means unchangeable. God never learns anything or forgets anything. *"Known unto God are all His works from the beginning. He declareth the end from the beginning and from ancient times, the things that are not even done, saying; My council shall stand."* So, God doesn't change. At any time, when a preacher says, "I've got a new message, a new revelation from God;" he is a fool and whoever listens to him is a fool. The reason is because God says, "I do not change."

When He finished the Word of God, He said, *"If any man adds to this Book, I'll add to him the plagues of this Book. If any man takes away from this Book, I will take his name out of the Book of Life."* God never changes. So, His message will never change, and His gospel will never change. It doesn't matter if Moses, Abraham, David, Isaiah or you and I preach it.

Sin is still the same. *"In Adam all died. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* We can trace the mess that we are in back to Adam; it hasn't changed. Somebody said, "The world is getting worse." It is no worse than when Adam fell. Sin is sin. There may be more open sin at various times and sin may be covered more at various times; but sin is sin. Rebellion is rebellion. Darkness is darkness. Men are men and the situation has not changed a bit. It is no different and sin is no different.

Death is the same. Folks are still dying. I know that we are doing our best to try to live hundreds of years on this earth. It won't work. God says, *"A man's days are three score and ten."* That means that his days are 70 years. That's the average then and it's the average now. It will be the average a hundred years from now. Some will live longer and some won't live so long. Death is the same. *"It is appointed unto men, once to die."* Do you know of anyone who has not died? You might say, "Yes, there are a lot of people who haven't died; but they will."

Judgment is the same. God Almighty said, *"I'm going to judge the world in righteousness by that man Jesus Christ whom I've ordained, whereof I have given witness to all men; I raised Him from the dead."* Judgment hasn't changed. *"It is appointed unto men once to die, and after that the judgment. We shall all stand before the judgment"*

seat of Christ.” That is just so! We are going to be judged in the light of our relationship with Jesus Christ. That is true of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. That is true of you, your neighbor and your pastor. That is true of me and everybody else. We are going to be judged according to our union and relationship, or lack of it, with His Son. *“He’s going to judge the world by that man, Jesus Christ.”*

Faith is the same. When God defined faith, He went all the way back to Abraham. He said, *“Abraham believed God.”* If you want to define faith, don’t listen to some of these folks today; go back and define faith like God did. *“Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness. This was not written for his sake alone, but it was counted to him for righteousness. But, it is for our sakes also. To whom it shall be imputed as righteousness if we believe like Abraham believed.”* That is what God says in Romans Four.

The blood atonement is the same. All the way back in Leviticus 17:11, God says; *“I have given you the blood upon the altar to make an atonement for your soul. It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul.”* That was 5,000 years ago. *“It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul.”* Paul came along in Hebrews 9:22, and says; *“Without the shedding of blood there is no remission.”* It is the same message; *“It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul.”*

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

That is Moses’ song too. The song of Moses and the Lamb is the blood of Christ. *“Unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”*

The resurrection is the same. Mercy is the same. Back in Exodus 33, a long, long, time ago, God said to Moses; *“I’ll be merciful to whom I will be merciful. I’ll be gracious to whom I will be gracious.”* Paul came along in Romans 9 and said, *“I will be merciful to whom I will be merciful. I’ll be gracious to whom I will be gracious.”*

Paul and Moses preached the same message. They preached the same profession and the same vocation, message and gospel. *“It is not of him that willeth or of him that runneth; it is of God that showeth mercy.”*

We have no new Bible. We have no new message. We have no new revelation. We have the unchanging gospel of the unchanging God. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday,

and all the yesterdays, today and all of the “todays.” Whoever is living at that time and using the word, today; Christ is still the same today and forever. Any change made in the gospel would be to corrupt it, compromise it and destroy it. Paul said, *“I do not frustrate or confuse the grace of God. If righteousness and life come by the law, then Jesus Christ died in vain.”*

I want your attention for a few moments and I want you to listen to me. There are three things that a man learns when he learns the gospel. It doesn't matter to me how long you have been in religion or how involved you are in religion or how wise you think you are in religion; there are three things that a man learns if he learns the gospel. These three things never change from Abel to eternity, from Abel's sacrifice to this day. Do you know what they are? Have you learned these three things? Listen to them:

What happened in the Garden of Eden? Do you know? What really happened on the cross of Calvary? Do you know? What really happens when God in mercy and grace meets a sinner and conquers him and saves him? Do you know? Those are the three things. These three things have never changed. They have been true from Abraham to this day. Let's look at each one of them briefly.

First of all: What happened in the Garden of Eden? Will you listen to me? What really happened way back there in the Garden of Eden? Charles Spurgeon had his to say about what happened, he said, “Let a man go wrong here (on what happened in the Garden) and his whole system of theology is wrong.”

It is like heading in the wrong direction from the starting gate. It is like a runner in a race. Instead of going the way the track goes, you'll be going the other way. You will never reach the destination. If a man doesn't start right, his whole system of theology is wrong and the starting place is what happened in the Garden of Eden.

What happened? Something happened that has affected every one of us and has brought about everything that this Bible reveals. First of all, back in the Garden, *“God created man in His own image.”* I'm going to be as plain and simple as I can be when I quote the scripture for most of the things I say. *“God made man upright and holy.”* He created man in His own image. Man walked with God. The man's name was Adam, which means red earth. This means that man was made out of the dust.

God breathed into that man the breath of life and he became a living soul. God gave that man one commandment. He said, “Obey Me and live.” That was the summary of it. He gave him dominion over the fish, the fowl of the air, the Garden and everything. He told

him to multiply and replenish the earth and to have dominion over all things. But, He said, "I'm still God." You are in subjection to Me. I'm the King and you are the subject.

There is one tree in the Garden. Nobody knows exactly what that was. I know they picture apples and all of these things. Nobody knows. But God said, "If you eat of that tree, you will die. Obey Me and live." It was a covenant of works. Man was placed under God's government and under God's covenant in obedience to God. This included everything that He had. This was the one law, obey Me and live; disobey Me and die.

In Isaiah 14 we read about the fall of Satan, his sin was that he said, *"I will be like God. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. I will ascend to the North; I will be like God."*

He is saying that he will not have God reign over him.

God smote him down, he fell and he became Satan. He became the devil, the evil power. He was the god of this fallen world. He tempted Eve, who in turn, spoke to Adam and Satan said, *"Hath God said that you shall not eat of every tree in the Garden?"* The woman said, *"We can eat of any tree except one."* Satan said, *"God knows that when you eat of that tree you will be like God."*

Whoa! That was his sin; *"You'll be like God."* You will throw off the rule, reign and government of God and will no longer be subject to God and you will be your own God. That is what David said, The fool has said in his heart that there is no God for me; I'll be my own God. That is what Satan said to this woman.

We know what happened. Adam and Eve took the fruit with this intention; *"We'll be like God."* What they were saying is, "We will throw off His government, throw off His rule, throw off His Sovereignty and we'll be God ourselves."

You know what happened; they died. They didn't die physically. Adam lived for more than 800 years. They died spiritually. The light went out. The man, who walked with God, now ran from God. The man who knew God, didn't now know God. The man who was the wisest man, who lived, became a fool. The man who was a genius and the man, who was holy, became naked.

That man represented all men. You might say, "How did his fall effect me?" The Word of God says this, *"In Adam all die. By one man's sin entered this world and death by sin. So, death passed upon all men. Sin was imputed to us and imparted to us."* God never created but one man. Even the woman was taken out of him. He was the head of the human race. When he fell, we fell. His carnal, fallen, dark, dead and depraved nature

was not only imputed to us, but was imparted to us. Sin entered the world and so did death and judgment. Sin was imputed and imparted. *“Behold, now, we are shapen in iniquity. We are born in sin.”* This is original sin.

What causes all of the death on this earth? What causes the tears, the heartache, the sickness, the disappointments, the wars and rumors of wars? The answer is sin! Those things were not in this world before Adam fell. Sin left its mark on everything. Now, we are born in the flesh and *“In the flesh dwelleth no man can please God.”* Do you see what happened in the Garden? Man died!

Man wasn't slightly wounded; he died. He is dead in trespasses and sin. He is without God, without hope in this world. He is separated from God. Your sins have separated you from God. You are destined to be damned unless something happens.

That brings us to what happened on the cross. What happened on the cross of Calvary? Well, in the Garden, man fell. On the cross of Calvary, men were restored. You see; let me read the scripture. You will find this in Romans 5, and First Corinthians 15: *“In Adam we died. In Christ we are made alive.”* When Adam ate the forbidden fruit and he threw off the government of God, he said, “My will, not your will.” That is when we died.

The Bible says that there are two Adams. There is the first Adam and the second Adam. *“The first Adam is of the earth, earthy. The second Adam is the Lord from heaven. In Adam we died and in Christ we are made alive”* in the second Adam. Christ said, *“Not my will but Thy will be done.”* That is the opposite. *“Through one man's disobedience we were made sinners, through the other man's obedience, we were made righteous.”* This is imputation or impartation. By one man (Adam) came death; by the God-man came resurrection and life (the second Adam). *“By the offense of one judgment came upon all and by the righteousness of one, the free gift of life came upon all who are in Him.”*

Who were they that were represented in Adam? The answer is all flesh. It doesn't matter if you are black, red, white, yellow, Chinese or American. We all came from one blood. *“God hath made of one blood all nations.”* We all have one Father. Our roots go back to Adam. Our sin goes back to Adam. Our death and our confusion and depravity goes back to Adam.

He represented us. He stood and we stood. He fell and we fell. He died and we died. That is what the Bible says. When Christ came He represented a new people, a new nation and a new kingdom. All who are in Him are restored and live.

You see; the fall in the Garden was a total fall. The restoration on the cross of Calvary was a total restoration. Christ cried, *"It is finished."* When Adam fell, it was finished! It was finished for everyone who has any hope in the flesh or any hope of ever being brought to God. There is too much debt and too much to pay. There is too much condemnation. When Christ came and paid the debt, He said; *"It is finished."*

Who was on that cross? The second Adam was. He was the Representative, the Lord from heaven. What did He do on that cross? *"He died the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God."* Why did He do this? He did it because He loved us. *"Herein is love, not that we love God; He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. He died to honor the law and to honor the justice of God that God may be just and justifier."*

Where is He now? He arose and He ascended. He is on the right hand of God. All who are in Him, all those for whom He died; He took with Him. He took us with Him, whether in reality or in representation. For whom did He die? For whom did He rise? For whom does He intercede? The answer is, He died for all who believe. He died for all who receive Him. *"To as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the Sons of God."* That is for all who trust Him.

I will tell you this; did you know that the cross of Calvary is older than the Garden of Eden? You might say, "Oh preacher, come on!" That's right; *"He was slain before the foundation of the world."* Nothing changes. God said, *"I am God; I never change."*

Here is the third question: What happens in a sinner when God meets him in grace and conquers him? What happens when he reveals Christ to his heart and saves him? I will tell you this; don't be deceived. It is a whole lot more than walking an isle. It is a whole lot more than making a decision, shaking a counselor's hand or calling someone on the phone. It is a whole lot more than signing a pledge card or going to a mourner's bench. It sure is a lot more than that. Salvation is a whole lot more than joining a church.

What happens in a sinner's heart when God meets him, when God Almighty meets him and conquers him and God reveals Christ to his heart? First of all, he believes God. You don't have to recite the sinner's prayer for him; he knows what to pray. He believes God. *"Abraham believed God"* and we believe God. *"He that believeth on the Son hath life; He that believeth not the Son hath not life."*

Secondly: He is a new creature. He is born again. God regenerates him. *"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature"* and a new person. He's a babe and he will grow, but he

is a new creature. The things that he once hated, he now loves. The things he once loved, he now hates. He wants to be like Christ. He says with David, *"I'll be satisfied when I awake with His likeness."*

Thirdly: He has eternal life. *"This is the record, God hath given us eternal life. This life is in His Son. He that hath the Son of God hath life. He is accepted in the beloved."* He has full access to the throne of God. He is made righteous in Jesus Christ. He is brought into a vital, living union with the Son of God.

What happens? He loves God. He loves God's Word; he loves God's people. *"Everyone that loveth is born of God."* He is not born of God because he loves. He loves because he is born of God. He is not born of God because he believes. He believes because he is born of God. *"He that loveth not, knoweth not God."*

This man is a new creature. He walks in the Spirit of God. He walks not in the flesh. He walks in the Spirit of God. He minds the things of God. He lives in the grace of God. It is his life. *"He grows in grace and the fruit of the Spirit."*

Let me tell you something; he will also continue in the faith. There is no such doctrine in the New Testament of backsliding. Don't you ever let anyone tell you there is; it is not so! Backsliding had reference to carnal, national Israel, who didn't even know God. God's people continue in the faith. They don't quit. This man will never die. He has life eternal. He will sleep but he will never die.

Do you know what happened in the Garden, on the cross, in a sinner when God saves him? I'm not talking about when some preacher talks him into a profession of faith. When God saves him, that message never changes. *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."*