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## Out with the Old, In with the New

Hebrews 7:11-19

Bernard Bell



### Background

We return to the Book of Hebrews for the four Sundays of July, pressing further into the preacher's presentation of Jesus as our great high priest through whom we draw near to God. The Levitical priesthood was an integral part of the Law which God gave his people Israel. But both priesthood and Law were ineffective -- why? The priesthood has been replaced by Jesus, our great high priest. But what about the Law? Should we put up the Ten Commandments in every school classroom? What does God really want from us?

### Sermon Text: Hebrews 7:11-19 (NIV)

*11 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? 12 For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. 13 He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. 14 For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. 15 And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, 16 one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.*

*17 For it is declared:*

*“You are a priest forever,  
in the order of Melchizedek.”*

*18 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless 19 (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.*

## Discussion Questions

### 1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?
- c. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?

### 2. Sunday questions

- a. In Bernard's introduction, he talked about how the 10 commandments are being required to be displayed in classrooms in some states. In his conclusion, he said these schools should "perhaps" also add two more posters:
  - A display of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (specifically the six "fulfillers," Matt 5:21-48) and
  - A description of the Good News as found in 2 Cor 5:17
    - How do you respond to these "proposals" by Bernard?
- b. The law and priesthood were great gifts to God's people, but they could not reach the human heart, and a transformation of the heart is what is really needed (Jeremiah said the heart was "deceitful" above all things.). How are you taking care of your heart? What things do you do to "feed" your heart the things of the light?
- c. Jesus is the greater high priest because He conquered sin and death, and entered into "an indestructible life" (Heb 7:16). "Death had him, but could not hold Him" (Bernard). We now have a "better hope" (Heb 7:19). Explain how this "better hope" works out in your life.
- d. The result of this "better hope" is that we can "draw near to God" (Heb 7:19). As Bernard showed, this is a repeated refrain throughout Hebrews. Is "drawing near to God" your heart's desire right now? Why or why not?