

“A Change of the Law”

Heb. 7:12

Introduction:

- A. Hebrews written to Christians under pressure to abandon Christ and return to Judaism.
 - 1. Affirms God no longer speaks through prophets, but His Son. (1:1-4).
 - 2. Affirms Christ is superior to angels or Moses.
 - 3. Affirms a change of the law. (Text).
 - a. No need to turn down ham or catfish. (Cf. Deut 14:8-10).
 - b. No need to fear death for working on Saturday. (Ex. 31:14,15).
 - 4. Affirms *when* the law changed. (Heb. 9:15-17).
 - a. Thief and young ruler under old law.
 - b. Jesus and disciples kept Sabbath under old law.
- B. Hebrews gives *three reasons* why a change of the law was necessary.
 - 1. The Priesthood of Jesus.
 - 2. The Weakness of Humanity.
 - 3. The Sacrifice of Jesus.

Discussion:

I. The Priesthood of Jesus Demanded a Change of Law.

- A. *Before the law* Melchizedek was a priest. (7:1; Gen 14:18-20).
 - 1. Before Levi, Aaron, Moses or the Law.
 - 2. Greater than Levites, yet not under the law. (7:4-10).
- B. *After the law* Jesus is high priest. (7:15-17).
 - 1. Suited to our weaknesses. (4:15-16)
 - 2. Providing for our salvation. (5:6-11)
- C. *During the law* only Levites were priests. (7:11-14)
 - 1. Excluded both Christ and Melchizedek.
 - 2. Hence, a change necessary for Christ to be our High Priest.

II. The Weakness of Man Demanded a Change of Law.

- A. Law was good (cf. Rom. 7:12) — fault was with man inability to keep it. (8:7-8).
- B. Law was “weak through the flesh” in that it did not solve the problem of sin. (Rom 8:1-4).
- C. Law did not take away sin, but promised a New Covenant that would. (8:8-12).

III. The Sacrifice of Jesus Demanded a Change of Law.

- A. Blood of first covenant was the blood of sacrificed animals.
- B. Blood of new covenant is the blood of Christ. (9:11-28).

Conclusion:

- A. If one insists on being under the law today, let him return to:
 - 1. The Levitical priesthood.
 - 2. The Animal sacrifices.
 - 3. The penalties of breaking it.
- B. If wants to enjoy the blessings in Christ, let him obey New Covenant