



**Hebrews – Dead Works and The Living God  
Pastor Rich Harris 07.23.2023**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

**[Hebrews 8:1-3, 6, NLT]**

<sup>1</sup> Here is the main point: We have a High Priest who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven. <sup>2</sup> There he ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands. <sup>3</sup> And since every high priest is required to offer gifts and sacrifices, our High Priest must make an offering, too...

<sup>6</sup> But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.

### **[Hebrews 10:1-2, NLT]**

<sup>1</sup>...The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship. <sup>2</sup> If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshipers would have been purified once for all time, and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared.

### **[Hebrews 10:5-6, NLT]**

<sup>5</sup> That is why, when Christ came into the world, he said to God, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer. <sup>6</sup> You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin.

### **[Hebrews 9:12, NLT]**

<sup>12</sup> With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.

### **[Hebrews 10:21-22, NLT]**

<sup>21</sup> And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, <sup>22</sup> let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

### **The New Covenant**

- Was inaugurated and is mediated by Jesus (Luke 22:20, Hebrew 9:15)
- We no longer have to make offerings to atone for sin (Hebrews 10:12)
- We no longer have to be separated from God (Hebrews 5:16, Romans 8:38-39)
- We can be forgiven of sin and free of its power in our lives (Hebrews 10:14)
- We can be transformed on the inside to know and love God and His Word (Hebrews 8:10-11)
- We can be washed and purified, free of guilt (Hebrews 10:22)
- It's all by grace, through faith! (Ephesians 2:8)

What are "dead works"? Religious nothingness. Going through motions that produce no life or value. Doing things God never asked us to do from a motive that scorns humility and dismisses His free gift of grace in favor of self-righteousness and self-qualification.

### **[Hebrews 9:13-14, ESV]**

<sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

### **[John 15:5, 8, ESV]**

<sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing... <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

## **1. Abide in His Word**

### **[Psalm 1:2-3, NLT]**

<sup>2</sup> ...they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. <sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.

## **2. Abide in His House**

### **[Psalm 92:12-14, ESV]**

<sup>12</sup> The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. <sup>13</sup> They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. <sup>14</sup> They still bear fruit in old age...

## **3. Abide in the power of His grace**

### **[Psalm 68:19, NIV]**

Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.

### **[Philippians 1:6, ESV]**

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

## Key Points:

1. Abide in His Word
2. Abide in His House
3. Abide in the power of His grace

## Applications for the Week:

This week, take time to pray and ask God to help you walk in the power of His grace. Prioritize time to read your Bible daily and commit to being in church. Come to Pursuit this Thursday at your campus (click [Pursuit Campus Schedule](#) for more details).

## Discussion Questions:

1. When you hear the word "covenant" what comes to mind? How is covenant different from commitment?
2. How is Jesus our great High Priest? What significance does He have in truly dealing with our sin?
3. What is "dead works"? What can dead works look like in our lives today?
4. How do we turn from "dead works"? How does serving God and bearing fruit make this possible? (See Galatians 5:22-23)
5. Pastor Rich said, "Fruit is the display of the grace and power of the Living God in your life, and it's the evidence of your dynamic, personal relationship with Him." Is your life producing the fruit of the Spirit?
6. In this season of your life, what fruit of the Spirit is God producing most? How are your friends, family, and those in your sphere experiencing that?
7. What are the 3 ways to abide in Jesus? Out of the three, which one do you need to practice consistently?
8. What are you believing for God to complete? [Philippians 1:6]