

Westwood Baptist Church Grounded. Growing. Going.

Worship Guide for December 22, 2024

Sermon Notes

Replacing the Shadows for Reality

Hebrews 8:1-6 (pew Bible pg.1005)

INTRODUCTION

Illustration: For the children (and all of us when we were children)

Why did I mention this illustration?

One of the main points of the Book of Hebrews is that the Old Covenant system is a shadow replaced by Christ Jesus. Let us look, for example, at what the author of Hebrews says when speaking of the earthly priests, the priests of the Old Covenant, in Hebrews 8:5, “who serve the figure and shadow of the heavenly things.” Since there are several shadows that Christ Jesus replaces, we can say the following as the Christmas celebration approaches.

Christmas is the replacement of the shadows with the reality that is Christ Jesus. Why do we say that Christmas is the replacement of the shadows with the reality that is Christ Jesus? In light of the central text and other texts of the Bible, we will see that Christmas is the replacement of the shadows of Christ Jesus for the following two reasons that we will explain.

I. BECAUSE THE SHADOW OF THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE OLD COVENANT HAS BEEN REPLACED BY THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST JESUS IN THE NEW COVENANT

“The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:21-25).

II. BECAUSE THE SHADOW OF THE TABERNACLE AND THE TEMPLE OF THE OLD COVENANT HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY CHRIST JESUS IN THE NEW COVENANT.

“Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.” (Hebrews 8:1-2).

CONCLUSION

We have seen that Christmas, in its essence, replaces the shadows we find in the Old Covenant with the reality of Christ Jesus in the New Covenant. We have seen two replacements. First, we have seen that the shadow of the priesthood of the Old Covenant has been replaced by the priesthood of Christ Jesus in the New Covenant; and second, we have seen that Christ Jesus has replaced the shadow of the Tabernacle and the temple in the New Covenant.

Because of all this, the meaning of Christmas is that its essence, its substance, belongs to Christ Jesus. That is, the religious ritual is like a shadow of a great and glorious Person. This Christmas, let us take our gaze away from any shadow that does not allow us to look only at Christ Jesus and only at His Person. The Bible commands us to guard ourselves against idols (1 John 5:21); in this case, let us guard ourselves against any religious spirit that distances us from the essential of Christmas, Christ Jesus.

*By: Ps. Démcer Díaz
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Sermon Reflection Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom...*"

- *Colossians 3:16a*

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group or church family from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Westwood Staff

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DECEMBER

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent
22 Worship Service Only @ 10:30am
22 Elder/Staff Christmas Dinner @ 4pm
22 Christmas in the Round @ 7pm
24 Candlelight Service @ 6pm
25 Merry Christmas!
25 & 26 Church Offices Closed
29 Worship Service Only @ 10:30am
29 Christmas Undecorating @ 12pm