<u>The Letter To The Hebrews</u>
The New Covenant
Hebrews 8:6-13

<u>Introduction</u>

Some passages in God's Word are easier to understand — some are harder.
We can be tempted to focus on the easier ones and ignore the harder ones.
But the Holy Spirit led the biblical writers to write both the easy and the hard passages.
So if we are going to trust the Holy Spirit we will enjoy the easy ones — and study the hard ones.
Hebrews 8 is a hard one.

<u>How does Jesus' Covenant compare to the Old Covenant</u>? (8:6-7)

Jesus' Covenant is better, since it was enacted on better promises (6).
The Old Covenant and promises had some fault (7).

<u>What was the fault with the Old Covenant and its promises</u>? (8:8-9)

The author tells us by quoting from the prophet Jeremiah, who wrote at around 500 BC.
The fault lay with "them" (v.8) — with the Israelites, because they did not keep the covenant.
The vast majority of Israel never trusted God — they were not saved.
(Although there was always a small remnant who were saved.)
So the fault with the Old Covenant and its promises lay with Israel — she turned away from God.

<u>How is the New Covenant different</u>? (8:10-13)

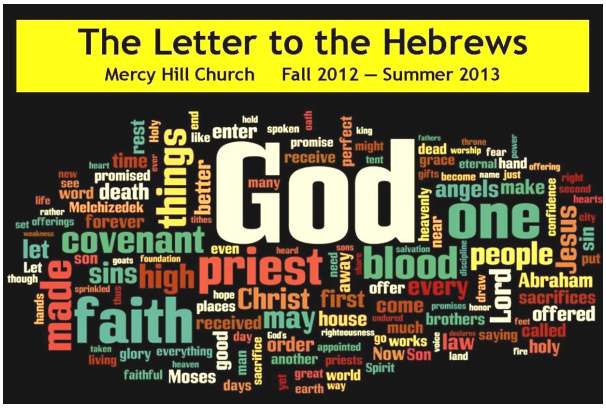
In the New Covenant God changes people's hearts (10)
This means He causes us to want to repent and trust Christ.

In the New Covenant God is our God and we are His people (10b)
This means God devotes all of who He is to bringing us the greatest joy of knowing Him —
And that we devote ourselves to trusting Christ to forgive, change, guide, and satisfy us.

In the New Covenant we all know God (11)
Not everyone in the whole world — but everyone in the New Covenant
We can actually know God!

In the New Covenant we are completely forgiven (12)
Through Jesus' death on the Cross

God's promise of a New Covenant shows that the Old Covenant is obsolete and vanishing away.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HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

In the past, what would you have said was the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant? How did Hebrews 8 affect your thinking?

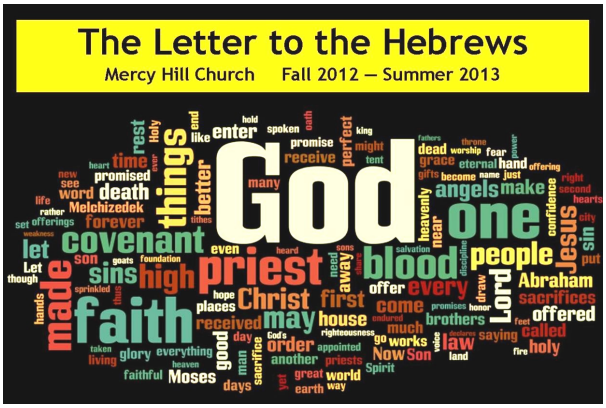
What questions were raised in your mind from what Hebrews 8 says?

What difference does it make in our Christian lives to know that God changes people's hearts? To know that God can change our hearts? To know that we would not be saved unless God changed our hearts?

Are there people you've not shared the Gospel with, because you've thought they would not be interested? Did Hebrews 8 motivate you to share the Gospel with them? Why or why not?

What do you usually do when your heart feels hard, or when you feel unspiritual? What difference does it make to know that God can change the hardest heart?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.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