

Hebrews 7:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Analysis

The law 'made nothing perfect' (Greek 'eteleiōsen ouden') - it couldn't complete salvation or perfect consciences (9:9). But there is 'a bringing in of a better hope' through which 'we draw near to God.' The contrast is stark: law achieved nothing vs. hope provides access. This 'better hope' is Christ Himself (1 Timothy 1:1), whose priesthood grants what law couldn't - direct access to God. Reformed theology sees justification by faith as replacing failed law-keeping.

Historical Context

The inability to 'draw near' under the old covenant is shown in the temple structure - only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place, and only once yearly. Christ's priesthood tears the veil, opening access for all believers.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Christ as our 'better hope' provide access to God that the law never could?

2. What does it mean practically that you can 'draw near to God' directly through Christ?

Interlinear Text

οὐδέν	γὰρ	ἐτελείωσεν	ὁ	νόμος	ἐπεισαγωγὴ	δὲ
nothing	For	made	G3588	the law	the bringing in	but
G3762	G1063	G5048		G3551	G1898	G1161
κρείττονος	ἐλπίδος	δι'	ἧς	ἐγγίζομεν	τῷ	θεῷ
of a better	hope	did by	the which	we draw nigh	G3588	unto God
G2909	G1680	G1223	G3739	G1448		G2316

Additional Cross-References

Acts 13:39 (Word): And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Hebrews 4:16 (Parallel theme): Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 9:9 (Parallel theme): Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

Romans 8:3 (Word): For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Hebrews 6:18 (Hope): That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Hebrews 10:1 (Word): For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Hebrews 11:40 (Creation): God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Romans 5:2 (Hope): By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

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