

The Forgotten Sanctuary
Why is Hebrews 8:2 Part of “The Main Point”?
by Timothy R. Nichols

Introduction

The Main Point of Hebrews

- Jesus the Superior Priest...
- Ministering in the Superior Sanctuary

Features of the Heavenly Sanctuary

- Like the Earthly...
- ...but better

Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary

- Christ’s Initial Entrance and Preaching Ministry
- Believers’ Ministry
- Back to “the Main Point”
- The Point for Us

A Broader Evangelical Application: The Worship Wars

- The Worship Wars
- What sort of Worship is Appropriate in Heaven?
- What does God Want to Receive?

Conclusion

We worship in heaven, following after our High Priest who has entered the Holy of Holies first as our Forerunner. We who worship in heaven are all of one, children of the same Father, and therefore we are eternally unified in a way no disagreement can sever. Because this is true, we should give careful attention to making our worship fitting for the heavenly context in which we find ourselves.

This means that we should strive to learn about heavenly worship and imitate it. We should devote ourselves to discovering what God wants to receive so that we can give it to Him, skillfully and unreservedly. And we should go into His presence unified with our fellow worshippers.

We will achieve none of these aims perfectly. This is sanctification, and sanctification is a process in which we grow day by day. The charge I would set before you is this:

- Pursue fitting worship that God desires at whatever imperfect level of maturity your present growth allows.
- Be confident that your Father will accept your worship because He has accepted Christ your High Priest as your forerunner, and you come following Him.
- Pursue peace with all your fellow worshippers at whatever imperfect level you are able to achieve.
- Again, be confident that the Father will accept your efforts because He has accepted Christ.

When we all raise our voices in praise in our respective churches on Sunday morning, we are also in heaven, worshipping together, led by our High Priest, who always lives to make intercession for us. There, we are unified — one people of God worshipping before one throne. There, we are holy. May our godly worship *there* overflow into our lives *here*, that our Father’s will may be done *on earth* as it is in heaven. For His is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.