

The New Covenant

When we study our New Testament in the light of it being a covenant between God and the believer in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, it begins to take on new meaning. When we take the time to study the covenant process and relate events in the Bible to covenant, then we understand why, under the Old Covenant, Israel endured so much adversity. It was because they broke covenant repeatedly, but God is such a God of integrity and mercy that even though this was the case, He kept His part of the covenant with Abraham and did not destroy the nation through which the promised Seed would come.

When that Seed came, He established a new covenant of which every believer is a participant. In Hebrews 8:13 we are told that upon the establishment of this New Covenant, the previous Covenant is decayed, waxes old, and vanishes away. There are some; however that still seek to mix the old with the new. We do not seek to decry any denomination, but there are many that still place upon their members the burden of keeping feasts, Sabbaths, festivals etc. A careful study of the operation of the early church would show that no such burdens were placed on the Gentile congregations of that day. Paul and other Jewish members of the church kept various feasts as was their Jewish custom, but no such burdens were placed on other believers. The New Covenant is a Covenant of liberty. It is a covenant whereby believers operate under the direction of the Holy Spirit and "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Corinthians 3:17).

Paul took issue with Peter because of Peter's hypocrisy in not associating with the uncircumcised Gentiles while in the presence of the Jews. Paul then clearly lets the Galatians know in no uncertain terms that the Christian walk is not one of works, but one of faith. Galatians 2:20-21 (AMP) says " I have been crucified with Christ [in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

21[Therefore, I do not treat God's gracious gift as something of minor importance and defeat its very purpose]; I do not set aside and invalidate and frustrate and nullify the grace (unmerited favor) of God. *"For if justification (righteousness, acquittal from guilt) comes through [observing*

the ritual of] the Law, then Christ (the Messiah) died groundlessly and to no purpose and in vain. [His death was then wholly superfluous.] "

Why then should we New Testament believers be burdened with remaining vestiges of the Law? It is old, dead and passed away. Our New commandment is the commandment to love each other. When we live by the commandment of love, and we walk in the Spirit, we will feel the heartbeat of God. We will love not only fellow believers, but the unbeliever as well, and our first priority will be to win souls to Christ and then disciple them so they in turn can win more souls. That is what it is all about - souls, souls, souls!

Instead of spending time and money on feasts and festivals it should be redirected to what God has called us to do with the time we have on earth!


Today's average believer finds themselves in the same state as the Galatian Church. Very few are discipled well enough to realize the benefits of the New Covenant and that it is by faith that we appropriate all that it holds for us. Our acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Savior and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit is not to enable us to fulfill the demands of the Old Covenant, but under the New Covenant, the law is written in our hearts, as foretold by the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:33-34 KJV)

"But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

We are not to be bound by the Law, but to the living Person of Jesus Christ. Our obedience and holiness are maintained by faith, the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and a constant diet of the Word of God.

A life of failure is a life that is not lived "in the Spirit". Paul said to *"walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh"* (Galatians 5:16 KJV).



Too many Christians walk in the light of their denominational doctrines that in many instances turn out to be doctrines of religious devils that keep the Christian in bondage. Many of these doctrines have plagued the Church of Jesus Christ for centuries! Many of these doctrines also exist in the more modern Pentecostal and Charismatic circles.

Many church leaders want to see miracles, signs and wonders, but that will not happen until they and the congregations accept that they are not living the realities of being new creations in Christ Jesus, operating under a New Covenant. We cannot be victorious Christians in this life and operate under a covenant of death, striving by works to achieve something that is only attainable through the New Covenant.

There are some ministers who have recognized this and are today teaching the saints (yes, I did say saints!) in their ministry their identity, authority, and responsibility as New Covenant Christians.

It grieves us to hear Christians who attend church faithfully every week and if you ask them "Should you die right now, do you know for sure that you will go to be with Jesus?" Many cannot give a definite "yes" answer, because they have never been told the first step to salvation! However, they can spout quotations from Genesis to Revelation, recite their denominational creed, and give full details of the life of Paul and an accurate run-down of church history! When asked, "Do you have a relationship with Jesus" they seldom say "yes", the issue is side-stepped with "I pray before I leave home!"

Religion is not relationship and it is sad to say, but it seems that many people who never see a church door have a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Jesus that some church attendees.

Do you have relationship, or do you have religion?