

THE NEW COVENANT

INTRO: In an earlier lesson, we established the following facts:

- A. We are living in the period of time known in the New Testament as “the last days,” Acts 2:17; Heb. 1:2.
- B. In these last days, we are to hear Jesus Christ, Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:1-2.
- C. The O.T. law was given by Moses to the nation of Israel. John 1:17; Ex 20:1-2; Deut 5:1.
- D. The O.T. law was to continue till the promised Seed should come, Gal. 3:19.
- E. When Jesus died on the cross He fulfilled Moses’ law & “nailed it to the cross.” Col. 2:14-16.

I. CHRIST’S LAW IS A LAW OF LIBERTY.

James 1:25, But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

James 2:12, So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.

John 8:32; Gal. 6:2

II. IN THE NEW COVENANT WE FIND SEVERAL NEW THINGS.

- A. A new church or kingdom. Matt 16:18-19. Rom. 16:16 This is opposed to the “church in the wilderness” (KJV).

Acts 7:38, This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us. (KJV)

B. A new name for God's people.

Isa 62:2, And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

Henry Halley: "Up to the coming of Christ, God's people were known as "Jews" or "Hebrews." After that they were called "Christians."

Acts 11:26, And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

1 Pet 4:16, But if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God. (NASB)

James 2:7, Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

C. A new sacrifice.

1. Jesus offered Himself & thus fulfilled & abolished the animal sacrifices of the O.T. system.

Heb 9:12-15, Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls & goats & the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that

those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Heb 10:8-14, Previously saying, "Sacrifice & offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

2. On our part, we give ourselves to Him by our praise and our obedience to His commands.

Rom 12:1, I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Heb 13:15, Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

D. A new form of worship.

1. The feasts & festivals of the O.T. have given way to the L.S. in memory of Jesus.

1 Cor 11:23-26, For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the

Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; & when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Acts 2:42, And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 20:7, Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

2. Prayer is to be offered to God in the name of Jesus Christ.

John 16:23-24, And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Eph 2:18, For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

3. The music of the Levitical priests has given way to the sacrifice of our lips, Heb. 13:15.

Col 3:16, Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching & admonishing one another in psalms & hymns and spiritual

songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

1 Cor 14:15, What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, & I will also sing with the understanding..

Heb 2:12, "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

4. The legalistic tithes & offerings of the O.T. system have given way to each Christian purposing in his own heart to give as God has prospered him, 1 Cor 16:2.

2 Cor 9:7, So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

5. The message is also new.
Eph 3:1-6, For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles--if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

1 Pet 1:10-12, Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to

you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into.

E. A new day of worship & emphasis.
Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Rev 2:10

F. All these things are of God & it is a grave mistake to seek to go back & be justified by the law of Moses.

Gal 5:1-4, Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, March 18, 1964
Cox Springs, TX, March 12, 1965
Jonestown, TX, May 19, 1968
KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, February 14, 1971
Springhill, LA, April 20, 1975
La Porte, TX, December 11, 1977
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, December 19, 2004