

The New Covenant

For the next few months we will be looking at the doctrine and philosophy of the New Covenant. A proper understanding of the New Covenant is essential for many reasons, apart from the obvious one - it would render useless the religiously merchandised superstition industry! Let's consider a few:

1) NOT EVERYTHING THAT IS BIBLICAL IS CHRISTIAN

Stoning people is Biblical! Blood sacrifices... tithing... not eating shrimp... these are all Biblical, but are they Christian? A lot of what is being said in Christian churches on Sunday could be heard in any Jewish synagogue on Saturday. As long as we keep preaching from Mt. Sinai, and not from Mt. Calvary, we will be confused.

2) NEW COVENANT UNDERSTANDING IS THE ANTIDOTE TO BOTH LEGALISM AND LICENSE

Both are forms of "hatred" for God. License is a secular, profane hatred for anyone telling us what to do with our lives. Legalism is often an "in house", religious form of hatred for God in that it is a refusal to love God Himself with all our hearts. It is a way to keep God in His place - 10% for God, 90% for me. The New Covenant provides the only way to safely live between the ruleless indifference of the gnostics and the anxious concern of the legalists. Both are "self" centered. If I am full of the One "full of grace and truth", there is no room in me for legalism or license.

3) THE NEW COVENANT ALONE ACCURATELY DEFINES AND FULLY INTERPRETS OUR TRUE CHILD OF GOD SELVES

For the Christian who looks to the Cross of Christ - the central fact of the New Covenant - we see the death of one life and the resurrection of another kind of life. There is no mixture of the two, no continuation of the old, but someone newly created. Someone radically new. There is no changed "I", but an exchanged "I"; no repaired "me", but a replaced "me". There is no "just me", but only "Christ in me". We do not say that Jesus Christ is part of our lives but that He is our life.

4) AN INADEQUATE VIEW OF THE NEW COVENANT KEEPS US BEGGING GOD FOR WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE

We often find ourselves begging God for patience, for peace, for forgiveness, for strength... when He Himself is our source for these. And when He is in us, we are complete... completely supplied with all we need. Under the New Covenant, if we cannot find in us what is being asked of us, there is one of two possibilities:

- 1) It is not God doing the asking...
- 2) Or, it is God, and we must confess we cannot find it, but Christ has it, and He is in us. We trust that our conscious confession will result in the (perhaps unconscious) expression of His life.

In every case, we will come to find that the New Covenant is, indeed, the "better" arrangement!



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Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

GREETINGS

On August 2nd, our middle daughter Leah and her husband Kevin had their second child, Jacob Aaron Byrd. He showed up right at 11 pounds... asking for ham sandwiches and football pads!

That's one down and two to go as our daughter Rebekah (and Jeremy) is due in November and our daughter-in-law Audry (and Joshua) is due in January. Keep them (and us!) in your prayers. We're headed back to the "good old days" - 5 children under three!

As school begins again let's remember our brothers and sisters working in our educational systems, both private and public. I'm hard pressed to find a greater need for "light in the darkness" than in our teaching institutions. I also believe there are few more difficult places to shine that light. Let's uphold and encourage and affirm those who are planted by God in this mission field.

One In Christ, Inc.
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Alachua, Florida 32615

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER

4,18 CCF
* 6 * ***NOTE CHANGE to Alachua Study from 2nd Tuesday to 1st Tuesday***
9-16 Glorietta, NM
23-25 Binghamton, NY (607-625-4612)

OCTOBER

3,10 University of Florida FCA
14-16 Baton Rouge, LA (225-769-8844)
NOV 4-6 San Antonio, TX (210-490-2827)

♥ PRAISE & PRAYER ✝

- ♥ Our New Covenant arrangement with God
- ♥ Our fully supplied life in Christ
- ✝ Our school teachers and administrators
- ✝ Our young families

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