

The New Covenant

The new covenant we have with God through Christ is not an improved old covenant. It is not an evolutionary development from old to new - it is something entirely and radically new. It is altogether new in the sense of its fulfillment and finality (Hebrews 10), in the sense of its functional provision for obedience (Ga 5:16), and in the sense of a full and perfect salvation graced to us by a Full and Perfect Savior (Col 2:9-10). We have received the Life of our Covenant Representative - new and better in every way than an improved, old life.

The central fact of the new covenant is the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. The new covenant does not bring life out of the old, but out of the death of the old. In Christ, we receive a death and a life. What He died to, we died to; what He lives to, we live to (Ro 6:10). New Covenant life, in other words, is the crucified, risen Life of Christ - and nothing less! It is not about the improvement of our character, but about the receptivity and expression of His nature. Only in the new covenant man do we find man as God intended him to be.

While the old covenant proclaimed an external fellowship where the presence of God was mediated, the new covenant offers an internal fellowship wherein the person of God is embodied. Because of Christ Himself abiding in our human spirits, the requirement of the law is met once and for all (Ro 8:4; 10:4), we are once and forever justified by receiving His personal righteousness (Ro 1:16; 5:17; II Co 5:21), all our enemies are defeated (Jo 16:33; Ro 8:35ff; II Co 2:14) and we are unbreakably and indivisibly joined to the very life of God (Ro 5:10; I Co 6:17; Heb 13:5).

In this new and better arrangement we are learning to be conscious of Jesus Christ - not ourselves, not our enemies, not our inadequacies. With our focus on a Full and Perfect Savior we learn to be at home in a full and perfect salvation. We are "in Christ". Christ is "in us". We have freely received both the context and the content for life as God intended man to live. That is surely a new and better arrangement than anything we could ever earn or generate. Now we have a gospel!



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- **To receive this newsletter electronically** - email your request to OICnewsletter@Gmail.com

Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

LET'S GIVE THANKS:

...for our family and friends and for our opponents
and our adversaries

...for our health and for our aches and pains

...for our immeasurable blessings and for our
thorns in the flesh

...for our peace and for our storms

...for our joys and for our sorrows

...for our past and for our future

...for the love of the Spirit and for the reproach of
the world

...for those who comfort us and for those who
confront us

...for light and for darkness

...for rest and for work

...for tearing down and for building up

...for the valleys and for the mountain tops

...for crucifixions and for resurrections

"Always giving thanks for all things in the name of
our Lord Jesus Christ" - Ephesians 5:20

Happy Thanksgiving!
Steve

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

4-6 San Antonio, TX (210-490-2827)
8 Alachua Study
13,20,27 CCF

****DECEMBER 6**** ← **NOTE CHANGE:** Ocala Study

JANUARY

13-15 Sebring, FL (864-382-6265)

JAN 29 - FEB 1 ReCLab, Orlando, FL



WINTER RETREAT



FEBRUARY 17-19, 2012



ALACHUA FLORIDA



\$275 couple (all inclusive) Includes:
\$150 single (2 to a room) conference fee
\$230 single (1 to a room) & 5 meals

or

\$65 person conference fee & 3 meals (no lodging
or or breakfast)

\$20 person conference fee

RESERVATIONS:

\$50 per person DUE BY JANUARY 20th

No reservation fee necessary to attend meetings only

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