

## Consider Jesus: The Mediator of the New Covenant Hebrews 8:6 - 13

Perhaps one of the most chronically frustrating problem in churches throughout the land is that of Christians trying to live New Testament realities with an Old Testament approach - trying to make New Covenant Christianity "work" by using Old Covenant theology. Failing to recognize the "radical discontinuity" (Jim Fowler) between the Old Covenant of law and the New Covenant of grace is at the core of such a problem.

The author of Hebrews is pulling out all the stops to demonstrate that the New Covenant is so radically better in every way that every Old Covenant way should cease immediately. The old is, in fact, "obsolete" (v 8:13) - a thing of the past, out of date, of no use. The two are "not like" (8:9) one another - any mixture of them is impossible. In fact, the Old Covenant had a planned obsolescence to it. It was an interim arrangement "until" the Messiah came (Ga 3:19). Once He arrives and inaugurates the New Covenant, the old has finished its purpose and is no longer in effect... there is nothing there to go back to!

In Hebrews 8:6-13, we find at least three essentially and eternally better aspects of the New Covenant:

1) In the New Covenant, we have a full and final forgiveness - (8:12).

- Whatever about us that was contrary to the character of God has been fully dealt with - paid for and put away (9:26). All is forgiven and cleansed - Col 1:14; 2:13; Titus 2:14. We have not just a clean slate, but a clean "us" (Ro 8:1; I Jo 1:9; II Cor 5:17). We may now "consider Jesus" our Savior, and not sit around "considering" our sins!

2) In the New Covenant, we have an eternal and internal provision for Life - (8:10).

- The "law of the spirit of life" (Ro 8:2) - the "Word of God" Himself (John 1:1ff) - Jesus Christ - has been implanted in every believer. God puts into us whatever He wants out of us. The life pleasing to God (Ro 6:10) - able to express His eternal character is now internal to us (Ga 2:20; Col 1:27). We may now "consider Jesus" and His promises, not our performances!

3) In the New Covenant, we have a union that leads to communion - (8:11).

- "All will know Me" - each of us is given a personal, relational, intimate union with God in Christ that opens the door wide for the sharing of life with God and each other. Every scripture, temptation, crisis, blessing can be met with this prayer, "I want to know You and be an expression of Your indwelling life." We may now "consider Jesus" as the Subject - not a mere supplement - to our lives (Col 3:4)!

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## *Praise Reports & Prayer Requests*

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Please inform us of any changes to your address




# Greetings

Our 2019 Florida Retreat will be in Gainesville again this year. February 8,9,10 we will be meeting at Oak Park Baptist in Gainesville. Lodging will be like last year as well - Springhill Suites in Gainesville. Our 2019 theme will be "Not I, But Christ". Paul's gospel to the Galatians will be our main text and you are encouraged to read, listen, meditate and study ahead. We hope to use every room we've reserved (30) like last year, so get your reservations in soon. (\$50 per person by January 14th, 2019). Call us if you've not joined us here before if you need more information.

\*Unbeknownst to me, our newsletter typist slipped in a birthday date last month. Thanks so much for the cards and well wishes!

## *Praise & Prayer*

 Our eternal and internal provision for life in Christ

 Fresh revelation from God

 2019 Florida Retreat

 New Covenant proclamation in our local churches

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

5-7 Binghamton, NY (607-239-5006)  
9 Alachua Study  
14,21,28 CCF  
30 Ocala study

### NOVEMBER

2-4 Titusville, FL (772-563-0430)



## 2019 Florida Retreat



### "Not I, But Christ"

February 8 - 10, 2019 - Gainesville, Florida

**\$50 deposit (per person) due by January 14, 2019**

\$325 per Couple (meals, room & retreat fee)

\$275 - per person, single room (meals, room & retreat fee)

\$170 - per person, 2 to a room (meals, room & retreat fee)

\$75 per person (meals & retreat fee - no room)

( for further details call 386-418-0913(h), 352-672-1275(c)  
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