

The New Covenant

Heb 8:10

1

10 "FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

This is a quote from Jeremiah 31:33. What is interesting is what's found in the preceding verses...

Jer 31:31-33

2

31 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, **32** not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord.

3 This is a prophecy concerning the New Covenant that the Lord had promised. That is the point of the Book of Hebrews. It illustrates the difference between the Old Law of Moses and the New Law of Christ. The real point here though, is that while the specifics of the Laws are different; under the Old Law they offered blood sacrifices, had to go to Jerusalem to appear before God through the high priest, but under the New Law, the sacrifice is personal, we go to God through Christ and prayer. The Laws are different, but God asks the same thing from those who would be His people, commitment, obedience, and faith.

The Lord says He is making a New Covenant that would take the place of the Old, but, like the Old was supposed to be, the New...

4 ***"I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."***

There is a truism that needs to be stated;

5

The doctrine of the divine covenant lies at the root of all religion

Think for a moment about the different religions of the world. Save for what I call the community church movement of I'm OK, you're OK, which of those religions teach that their doctrine or beliefs are not the ones given by God to be followed, obeyed, or believed? Which of them encourage people to go elsewhere or to believe different doctrines? That's the point of this statement, everyone believes that their doctrine, their faith is divine, came from God to be believed as His Word and to be obeyed as His divine guide to lead man to the ultimate reward.

When God created the world He established a covenant with man...

Gen 1:27-29

6

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and

multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” **29** Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

That has always been the pattern in man’s relationship with God. God will provide for man if man will be obedient to what God wants from him. This is what is seen in the creation account, God gives man everything he needs and all man has to do is keep the commandments...

Gen 2:15-17

7

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. **16** The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; **17** but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat,

All Adam and Eve had to do was obey, they didn’t. In their failure, in their sin, they became subject to the penalty that God had imposed...

8

“For in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”

Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit and by law, God’s Law, faced the penalty of death. This raises the question of whether or not they had to pay the penalty. Death, by base definition, means separated. When Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden they were separated from God and His blessings and in addition to that...

Gen 3:24

9

24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

When man was separated from the Tree of Life and cast out of the Garden, the mortality of his body began to decay and eventually he would die. So in a sense, man died twice because of his sin. He died spiritually when he was separated from God because of his disobedience and he died physically when he was separated from the Tree of Life.

Rom 5:12

10

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

There are three distinct covenants, maybe four, depending on if you are a lumpener or a splitter, that God has made with man. The first is what we just looked at in the Garden with Adam and Eve. Now if you’re a lumpener, that covenant is combined with what we term the Patriarchal Law, if you’re a splitter, then the Patriarchal Law is a different covenant. The next covenant that was established is that of the Mosaic Law. Now remember what we just saw here in Romans, sin has entered into the world through disobedience. If man was to ever have a righteous relationship with God, that sin had to be removed. The first covenants, while they did define for man what God’s commandments were, offered nothing that would or even could remove that sin and bring man back into a covenant

relationship with God. In one of the proofs that Christ gives to the people to illustrate that He is God, He says in...

Mark 2:7-11

11

7 "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? 9 "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk'? 10 "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home."

"Only God can forgive sin," that said, the last covenant that God has established with man is the plan He has implemented to forgive man his sin through Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:15

12

15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.

Grace is defined as...

13

"Unmerited Favor"

Paul here describes the gift of the sacrifice of Jesus as a manifestation of the grace of God given through His Son, Jesus the Christ. And isn't that a wonderful description of the New Covenant, the revelation of God's grace through Christ? Therein is the story of the Gospel of Christ that He died for all men, but only as many as willingly choose to come to Him through faithful obedience will experience and partake of the grace of God given through Him, that is the hope offered in the Gospel, that is the only hope of man. In Jeremiah chapter 10, God is speaking to Jeremiah and instruction him to tell the Israelites. Note...

Jer 10:8-9

14

8 But they are altogether stupid and foolish In their discipline of delusion—their idol is wood! 9 Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish, And gold from Uphaz, The work of a craftsman and of the hands of a goldsmith; Violet and purple are their clothing; They are all the work of skilled men.

God doesn't mince any words as He comments about the idolatry of the Jews...

15

"They are stupid and foolish in their delusion"

How does God feel about people who make the choice to walk away from His love, His covenant, here it is. The point of this discussion in Jeremiah is found in...

Jer 10:23

16

23 I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

The hope of man's salvation cannot be found in any man's wisdom, those that seek to save themselves are already lost. There is only one avenue that leads to salvation...

Rom 1:16-17

17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Paul makes his point clearly, salvation can only come through the Gospel and can only come to those who have put their faith in that Gospel. Peter adds to that in...

1 Peter 1:3-5

18

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

The power of God, read the Gospel, protects those who have put their faith in that Gospel, and remember that that protecting faith comes from hearing that Gospel.

God offers man His grace, His unmerited favor, through Jesus Christ, and revealed to man in the Gospel.

In our remaining time there are a couple of thoughts that I would like to pursue for a few minutes...

19

- 1) The offer of the Covenant of Grace, the Gospel
- 2) Who is the object of this Covenant

God's covenant promises a reward greater than anything this world holds. It lifts man out of the depths of his despair in sin and elevates him into the glorious light of the love of God. When enters into that covenant with God he places himself into subjection to the covenant and becomes an heir with Christ to the blessings of God's promises, this is our first thought...

20

- 1) The offer of the Covenant of Grace, the Gospel

Under the Old Law, God said...

21

"I will put my law in their minds"

Jer 31:33

33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

God promised His people of Old that He would be their God, He would go with them into battle, and that all they had to do was be faithful to Him.

Deut 31:6 22

6 “Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.”

Therein is the dilemma so many face in their relationship with God. God’s promises are inviting, man wants desperately to partake of them, to receive them. But man finds it very difficult to subject himself to God’s will.

In this last covenant, the Covenant of Grace, the Gospel, God promises salvation through Jesus Christ for anyone and everyone who will come to Him in faithful obedience. That is God’s offer and He has already put it on the table, but man must come to Him through Christ to receive it. Peter speaks to the promise of God in the Gospel rather extensively in 1 Peter. We already looked at 1:3-5 where Peter points out that the faithful are protected by God through faith for a salvation. In...

Deut 20:2-4 23

2 “When you are approaching the battle, the priest shall come near and speak to the people. **3** “He shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel, you are approaching the battle against your enemies today. Do not be fainthearted. Do not be afraid, or panic, or tremble before them, **4** for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.’”

God takes care of His children. He placed manifested His New Covenant through Jesus Christ to all men and reveals it in the Gospel. God’s part of the agreement is salvation from our sins and the penalty of them. Our next thought then is...

24 2) Who is the object of this Covenant

As we saw earlier in Romans 5 Christ came and died for all men, which is exactly what we saw in...

25 **16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

While the Covenant of grace is offered to any and to all, very few will find it.

Matt 7:13-14 26

13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. **14** For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

27 The Gospel, this New Covenant, is truly wondrous. It is the only avenue by which man can find the salvation promised by God. It is the only way man can come to know Christ and through knowing Christ can come to know God. This Covenant is the plan God implemented to restore man into a Covenant relationship with Him. But in the final analysis the decision is up to us. Do we or do we not choose to enter a Covenant relationship with God or Not?