



The New Covenant

By Ken Terry on April 25, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 2 Corinthians 3

In our reading today, the apostle Paul speaks to the New Covenant. The New Covenant was inaugurated by the Father through Jesus' work on the cross. Jesus also spoke to this new beginning with His disciples at the Lord's Supper, *"Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you'"* (Luke 22:20 NKJV).

The New Covenant of Christ Jesus, revealed as the New Testament, reflects the life and teachings of Jesus Christ to His followers of that time to our present day. The apostle Paul makes a great distinction between the two testaments. The OT was one of condemnation and the NT was one of righteousness through the blood of Christ. *"For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels"* (2 Corinthians 3:9-10 NKJV).

The glory that excels in us is the Spirit of Christ. How often do we reflect on this wonderful concept? Specifically, the One who resides in us, the Glory of God! As we think along these lines of ministry, let us note that Jesus represents the righteousness of God--New Covenant. Sin and death represent the condemnation in the Old Testament. I feel this is what the apostle Paul is getting across to his readers. My Bible commentary gives us more insight:

3:9, 10 The second contrast (see vv. 7, 11) is that the OT ministry was a ministry of condemnation, but the NT ministry is more glorious because it is a ministry of righteousness. God declares righteous those who believe in His Son, and then the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to live righteously. This first work of God is called justification, and the second is called sanctification. (End commentary.)

Some may not be able to see the difference because of the veil that covers their heart. They will remain blind to concepts of God because their sin nature overshadows their point of spiritual reasoning. This, my friends, would be a travesty, just as it was in the time of Paul. *"But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away"* (2 Corinthians 3:14,16 NKJV).

In the New Covenant, those who accept, believe and follow the risen Christ will be saved and given the ability to see Him and Whom He represents, the Father of all! My friends, this is the beauty of our walk in Christ--the New Covenant between God and man. Let us, therefore, walk in the manner that we have been called, then continue to grow in wisdom and understanding as we become more like Him, more like Jesus! Listen closely to Paul's words, *"But we all, with*

unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

PRAYER: Father God, Creator of the universe and all forms of life, we thank You for the New Covenant that you cut for mankind. Father, we thank You for Jesus and His blood that was shed for us! Now we ask, Father, that you continue to sanctify us into the image of your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us learn how to surrender and submit to His Lordship in every aspect of our lives. It is in His glorious name that we pray, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: 2 Corinthians 4

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