

The Glory of the New Covenant

Theme: What the Old Covenant demands, the New Covenant promises to accomplish in God's unmerited covenant people through Christ's sacrifice and priestly intercession for them. *Hebrews 8:8-12 ESV*

I. Intro – The Necessity of Understanding the New Covenant

These sentences are the beating heart of the entire Bible, quoted by Christ, various authors of the New Testament, and the writings of numerous church leaders.

If you are a believer, your amazement at the glory of the New Covenant, the Gospel, is directly linked to your spiritual fervor, strength, and fruitfulness.

II. The Promises of the New Covenant

1. **God promises four things in the New Covenant.**
 - a. **Obedience to God's Law** "I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts"
 - b. **Faithfulness to God** "I will be their God, and they shall be my people"
 - c. **Relationship with God** "...for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest"
 - d. **God's Forgiveness** "For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more"
2. **Notice how the typical elements in most Gospel presentations are nowhere to be found (Heaven, Hell, judgement, the cross, the savior, repentance, discipleship, etc.)** This is not because they are not contained in the promises of the New Covenant – it is because there is something more fundamental to the Covenant that binds them all together.

III. What is the Glory of the New Covenant? How is the New Covenant different than the Old Covenant? *"I will establish a new covenant with*

the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers"

1. **The Old Covenant was given to God's chosen people after He delivered them from slavery in Egypt** (Duet. 4:13, 6:6-7)
2. **Is the New Covenant different from the Old because it has different elements and obligations?**
 1. It isn't because the Old Covenant demands obedience and the other does not. (Matt. 5:19)
 2. It isn't because the New Covenant demands faithfulness to God and the Old Covenant does not. (Joshua 24:14)
 3. It isn't because the New Covenant demands a relationship to God and the Old Covenant does not. (Duet. 6:6-7)
 4. But the promise of forgiveness is completely foreign to the Old Covenant. (Ezekiel 18:4)
3. **The Primary Difference is the People's Continuation in the Covenant, the Certainty of Receiving its Promises** *"not like the covenant I made with their fathers... For they did not continue in my covenant"*
 5. The New Covenant puts no conditions upon God's people whatsoever
 6. The Old Covenant was conditional upon human faithfulness and obedience. (Exodus 19:5, Duet 28:9)
 7. The Old Covenant was uncertain because it was conditional upon men. The New Covenant is certain because it is conditional upon God.
4. **What the Old Covenant *demands as its conditions*, the New Covenant *promises unconditionally*.**
 - a. Notice the repeated pattern of Scripture: *The conditions of the Old Covenant become the promises of the New Covenant.* (Duet. 6:6, 10:16 & 30:6; 36:25-27, Jer. 7:23 & 32:38-40)
 - b. Note that faithfulness to God is the promised condition, not the condition of the promise. Faith, also, is the effect of the Spirit's grace upon the soul, not the cause of it.

“Never make a Christ out of your faith, nor think of it as if it were the independent source of your salvation. Our life is found in “looking unto Jesus,” not in looking to our own faith. By faith all things become possible to us; yet the power is not in the faith, but in the God upon whom faith relies.” – Charles Spurgeon

5. **What if God’s people do not meet God’s demands? God promises to forgive them and take their justly deserved punishment upon Himself.**
 - a. Where God’s people fail to obey, Christ obeyed in their place. He was obedient unto death, even on a cross.
 - b. Where God’s people are unfaithful, Christ was faithful for them.
 - c. Where God’s people despised a relationship with God, Christ loved God to the bitter end for them. Romans 5:7-8
 - d. Where Christ people’s sin, Christ the punishment of all their sins upon Himself. (Is. 53, Eph 5:25-27)

IV. Applying the Word

1. **To the Church: Are you overwhelmed by the glory of the New Covenant? (Eph. 1:3-7)**
2. **To the false professor, the hypocrite: Do see the frailty of your hope? (Psalm 127:1)**
3. **To the Unbeliever: Do you see the danger you are in without unmerited God’s mercy? (John 6:37)**