

A New Covenant *Hebrews 8*

Throughout the Bible, God made covenants with His people. Some of those covenants were conditional, like the Mosaic covenant, in which God promised blessings if the people would follow His Law. Others were unconditional, like the promise God made to Abraham to make him a great nation. Problems arose with the Mosaic covenant because the people of Israel were unable to follow the Law. Their hearts were constantly turning away from God and breaking the Law. Because the result of sin is death (Romans 6:23) a new covenant was formed, in which God Himself would fulfill the requirements of the Law and give the people the ability to follow Him in love and obedience (Jeremiah 31:31, 33; Ezekiel 36:26-28).

*Throughout Scripture, it is evident that the covenants work together. The Abrahamic covenant promises that righteousness will come through faith (Galatians 3:6-14; Genesis 15) and the Davidic covenant promises that an eternal King will come from the line of David (2 Samuel 7:16). The Mosaic covenant exists to show us our inability to obey, so that we will know to turn to God for mercy (Galatians 3:23-25). And the New covenant in the blood of Jesus, the Eternal King, provides redemption from sin and freedom from the Mosaic covenant (Hebrews 9:13-15). "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).
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- I. The major difference between those of us who know Christ and those who don't is the unbelievers lack of understanding of who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ. They don't understand that we've been imputed with His righteousness. They don't understand our status before God as holy redeemed saints. They don't understand that we think with the mind of Christ through the indwelling wisdom of the Spirit. And they don't understand the passion we have toward obedience to God's moral absolutes found in Scripture. We are odd and confusing to them and as a result, we are hated for it. Should it surprise us then that they speak out against our ways and our reasoning. It is Jesus Christ we serve, not man. Therefore, we must make every effort to stand firm in the faith and not let the godless, through fear and intimidation, get us to compromise our Christian values for the sake of appeasing them.

Heb. 7:25-26

1 Cor. 2:11-16

John 3:19-21 *19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.*

- II. Hebrews 8 gives us an understanding of the stature and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are given three choices when it comes to whom we decide to serve. If we chose to serve man, then we bow to him and put our trust in him alone. If we chose to serve self, then we bow to self and put our trust in self alone. If we chose to serve Jesus Christ, then we bow to Him and put our trust in Him alone. Who we chose to serve is evidenced by how we live our lives. By grace, God helps us make the right choice by revealing to us what His throne room is like. Man's throne room is based on sin and is empty and void of anything supreme, excellent, sovereign, preeminent, and glorious. God's throne room is magnificent and full of the resplendent light of His holiness. It is where He and His Son rule from. It is the only place of true authority and justice, and it is a place that believers have the privilege of entering through prayer. Why then, would we choose to serve anyone other than He who serves us with great mercy and grace as we wait for our redemption.

Heb. 8:1-2

Heb. 10:11

Phil. 2:5-13

"The fact that Jesus Christ, in all His glory, is all His magnitude, in all His exaltation in heaven, is still preoccupied with ministering to us is awesome and wonderful and humbling. He is always serving." MacArthur

Rev. 3:21-22 *To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.*

- III. Upon salvation, God wrote His law on our minds and hearts so that we could know and love Him. His presence in our lives is permanent and cannot be taken away because of the covenant He made with all who sincerely believed the gospel. It is a unilateral unconditional covenant based on the power of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. It means that God has obligated Himself to us by guaranteeing not only our salvation and entrance into His kingdom, but also with the promise of never leaving nor forsaking us in this life and in the life to come.

Heb. 8:3-13

Ex. 24:8

Gen. 15:17-18

Ex. 19:5-8

Judges 2:20

Phil 3:8-10

2 Cor. 3:13-15

Ezek. 11:19; 36:26; Jer. 31:31-34; Rom. 11:25-32

Diathēkē - *Not an agreement, but a testament or will. It is a covenant for the terms of which only one person is responsible*

In a bilateral contract both parties are bound by their exchange of promises. The party to a unilateral contract whose performance is sought is not obligated to act, but if he or she does, the party that made the promise is bound to comply with the terms of the agreement.

2 Cor. 1:10 *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through Him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.*