

Letter to the Hebrews

Pembroke Bible Chapel
D Axford – May 18, 2008
Series No. DA-HEB-14

The New Covenant

Hebrews 8:7-13

The concept of a covenant as a contractual agreement is found primarily in the Old Testament. This was a common way of formalizing the obligations of each party to the covenant. The New Testament concept is primarily related to covenant as a last will and testament with contingent benefits to the heirs.

I. ITS CONTEXT

The New Covenant was an unalterable promise made by God to Israel during the time of their captivity (*Jer.31:31-34*).

II. ITS CHARACTER

It is entirely new, with God's Law implanted in the heart and mind, with an intimate relationship to God, with perfect knowledge, and where Israel's past sins will be obliterated (*Heb.8:8-12*).

III. ITS CONFUSION

There has been a gradual shift away from the literal interpretation of this passage during the past half century, leading to a loss of truth on the value of Christ's death on the cross and His power in the life of the Christian.

IV. THE CONCLUSION

Christian truth goes far beyond even this new and improved covenant for Israel; and in fact goes beyond what Adam experienced in the Garden in innocence.

The Christian has no need of a written contract for he has the Holy Spirit dwelling within as the guarantor and enabler for the Christian walk.

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Application

Truth matters. It is objective and unchanging. At any point in time, men may be in error as to what the truth is, but this in no way changes the truth.

The way in which you live your life is affected by your system of values which in turn is affected by what you believe. When you believe that which is true, your life will be in balance as God designed it. If you believe the many falsehoods of this day and age, your life could be headed for shipwreck.

True Christian truth is absolutely revolutionary to your way of thinking and acting. If you are a born-again believer in Jesus Christ, don't settle for second best – for a covenant intended for God's earthly people. You are a heavenly people – seated with Christ in the heavenly realm. He directs your new life through the Holy Spirit who dwells within you.

Do you realize how truly revolutionary this fact really is? God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, with all of the attributes of God, dwells within your very being. The eternal, infinite, omnipotent, transcendent God of creation dwells within you.

The Christian life goes far beyond contractual rules and regulations. You have been brought into an intimate partnership in this enterprise of God. You are the beneficiary of all spiritual blessings in Christ. You are a joint heir with Christ. You have an entirely new type of life – abundant, eternal, and immortal. Live it to the full!