

## 2 Corinthians 3:6 The New Covenant

### **Do you enjoy new things!**

A) **New food** if it is good – someone tells you about a new restaurant!

Friends took us to Nucci's in Vista / Selmas in SC

B) **New Place**: Going to Italy was really cool!

C) **New Car** – Smell the fresh interior!

D) **New Outfit!** – I have nothing to wear – Closet full of clothes

1) Something about a new outfit – fits just right

### **Yes most of us like new things – especially when they are great things**

A) There is nothing greater that any of us will ever experience than our subject today –

#### **THE NEW COVENANT**

B) We left off last time began ch. 3 where Paul declared that it was God who made him sufficient as a minister.

C) V.6 He introduces us to the main message of his ministry! And Paul will spend the rest of this Chapter talking about the new Covenant –

#### **RD v.1-6**

*“The Doctrine of the New covenant lies at the root of all true theology. It has been said that he who understands the distinction between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant is a master of divinity”. C.H. Spurgeon*

A) So that is what I want to do today is focus on the major distinction between the Old and the New Covenants. Next time see what Paul says here

B) Understanding the various aspects of the NC is the Key to experiencing **intimacy w/ God / Freedom in our walks / Usefulness for the Lord**

1) It is essential to living a Vibrant / Fruitful / successful Christian life

C) First of all realize that a Covenant is an agreement that God made with man!

D) The basic terms of the OC are described for us in many places in the OT – draw your attention to one of those places - Deuteronomy 11:22

**22 If you are careful to obey every command I am giving you to follow, and love the LORD**

your God, and do what he has told you to do, and are loyal to him, <sup>23</sup>then the LORD will force all those nations out of the land ahead of you, and you will take the land from nations that are bigger and stronger than you. <sup>24</sup>Everywhere you step will be yours <sup>26</sup>See, today I am letting you choose a blessing or a curse. <sup>27</sup>You will be blessed if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today. <sup>28</sup>But you will be cursed if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God.

**A) The thing we see about the terms of this Cov. Is there was a Condition to it!**

**B) The Promise of Blessing was based upon man's obedience in keeping the Law of God / In Living according to the 10 Commandments**

C) In the Book of Exodus that When God thundered from on top of Mt. Siani in giving the Law to Israel, the people responded

- 1) *All that the Lord has said we will do/* But they Broke that 40 days later  
Moses delayed his coming down – *Make us a Calf*

**D) So in Short the OC was a covenant who's promises were conditional – they were based on man's performance.**

1) There in laid the problem – Man couldn't keep – the conditions – therefore he would not be a recipient of the promises!

**E) Paul writing in the book of Galatians 3:24 – would tell us that the law was given to be a school master – pointing out our need of a Savior!**

1) That is why the Letter killed – it sentenced us to death – we were cursed!

**Man was doomed! – A NEW COVENANT WAS NEEDED!**

**Now there are two main OT passages announcing that a New Covenant was coming! – Keep your place here turn to Jeremiah 31:31-34**

A) Now the question arises well who does this NC apply to – says it is a Covenant made with Israel – The OC was made with Israel – but applied to all men – Revealed we were sinners

B) Jeremiah was writing during the reign of King Josiah – God made this promise – aside from Jesus - Israel is always the central figure in Prophecy

C) Jeremiah 31 points prophetically to what the nation of Israel will experience during the Millennial reign of Christ - @ 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

**D) But this prophecy has a broader and immediate application to all believers in Jesus Christ**

**1) Because on the night before his death – Jesus was celebrating the Passover with His disciples – when He took the cup and said**

Matthew 26:28 “*this is My Blood of the New Covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins*”

**E) On that night before Jesus would go to the cross / when He spoke in that manner / He was signifying that the New Cov. Was being established**

**Big Difference: See the OC was based on my performance the NC is based on Christ performance. 2 Corinthians 1:20**

**“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” {We are now in Christ}**

**Jesus fulfilled the conditions of the OC – so that we who are now in Christ as believers – get to be recipients of the promises – thru the NC!**

A) Now as we consider this covenant laid out here in Jeremiah 31 – we see there are 3 key components to it { Focus the rest of today:

**New Heart / New part/ New Start**

**New Heart:** v.33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts;

**B) Right away God is letting us know that the key to the NC is it is going to be an internal work of God – something God is doing on the inside of man.**

C) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Key Passage Ezekiel 36:26-27 describes this key component – **detail**

**“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”**

**There the Lord declares I am going to give you a New Heart**

A) **New Heart speaks of an Internal work!** The O.C. was external: the focus was on man's outward performance: **Sacrifices/ washings/ Keeping the Law**

**B.) But The outward sacrifices; & washings could not effect the inward!**

Jeremiah 17:9 - *"The heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked who can know it! "*

C) Be surprised what heart is capable of :

Matthew 15:19 *"Out of the heart comes evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander"*

D.) Been rightly said that **“At the Heart of man’s problem is a heart problem!”**

1) Our Hearts are wicked – I am never surprised any more hear of something someone did .

**But praise the Lord - He has the answer to OUR heart problem: He says I will give you a new heart!**

A.) Not **clean up the heart** but give you a new heart! / The Heart is the core of who we are {OUR NATURE & that is where God starts on the Transformation work! **NEW NATURE!**

B.) **Heart transplant!** – Mike V – Jamie gangs "Can't picture them like that"

1.) That’s the Lord *new Heart!*

**C) Some pp do a good job of cleaning up the outside – but the problem is the heart is still the same – that is revealed especially in Crises – you see the heart – Selfish tendencies –**

D) God gives us a new heart – Starts the work on the inside!

**But notice what else he says: I will place my spirit in you and my spirit will cause you to walk in my statutes and judgments.**

A) The Lord says that Part of this new work is that my spirit is going to live inside your heart – do a change in you!

B) **He is going to Empower you / so that what I am calling you to do you will want to do & He is going to enable you to do them**

C) So With the newness of heart comes a change of desire thru God’s spirit working w/ in us

1) God’s word no longer written on tablets of stone but now written on our minds & In our hearts

D) The H.S. bringing conviction concerning the word in our hearts & empowering us to follow after it.

1) Paul put it this way in Phil 2:13 *God is working in you both to WILL & TO DO for His good Pleasure.*

**The OC promised blessings to the obedient; the NC promises blessings to help us be obedient.**

A) The H.S. is promised to lead us and strengthen us for duty"

B) So The new Cov is so great because God works from Within He changes my mind & my will He gives me a new will /

C)He gives me a New desire to please Him / so that the things that He loves becomes the things that I love

**A Scientist was touring in the Amish Country of Penn. The Amish are people who love God very deeply / Very old fashioned in the way they live**

A)No TV / no computers / no modern day appliances / no cars / everything is still in the horse & buggy stage

B) They live very simply & they talk in king James English / **thee's & thou's**

C) Well this particular Scientist was talking w/ this Amish man about the Amish man's believe in God

1) Do you really believe that there is a God ? / A. man answered Ye

Scientist said *Have you ever seen God ? Ne / Smelt God ? Ne / touched God ? Ne*

*Well how can you believe that there is a God if you haven't seen / smelt / touched God How do you even know there is a God / Unscientific illogical*

**The A. man answer was great** : *tellest thou me this / Pretale – Hast thou ever **seen** thy brain ? No /hast thou .... **Smelt** ... / **NO** / **touched** thy brain ? **NO***

***Then how knowest thou that thou hast a BRAIN ?***

***How Knowest thou that God is real – New Cov. Like that great old Hymn put it :***

*I serve a risen savior He is in the world today, I know that He is living No matter what men may say I hear his voice of mercy I hear his voice of cheer and just the time I need Him He is always near.*

*He lives, He lives Christ Jesus lives today He walks w/ me & talks w/ me along life's narrow way. He lives He lives salvation to impart You ask me how I know He lives He lives w/ in my heart . **The NC***

A)A New heart – God' spirit in us to lead us / direct us & empower us

B)**EARLY CHURCH** Amazing to think of how Powerful the early Church was when they didn't have the NT – but they were led and moved and empowered by the HS – when the NT was written it was merely confirming what the HS was speaking to their hearts

**C) You want to live an exciting Christian life** – Learn to respond to the leading of the Spirit – go talk to that person about me –

1) Go pray for that person – Write – call – email –

## **2<sup>nd</sup> aspect of the New Covenant – New Part V 33-34**

I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord.

**A) We see here the Lord gives Himself as the chief blessing of the NC**

**B) In the OC everything was about distance – Tab worship / temple worship**

1) Mediators – Moses / Prophets / Priest

**C) The average Israelite might have thought** – Moses knows God – the Priest know God – that Prophet seems to Know God – but not me

**D) In fact they were often scared of God** – Once God spoke to Israel audible voice – freaked them out - Moses let him talk to you – you talk to us!

**In the NC it is the opposite – God says I will be their God – He is saying I will be their all in all! – The I am – whatever the need – that is me**

**A) A loving & tender Father. A watchful shepherd & Guardian of his flock. A friend that sticks closer than a brother. A rock/ A refuge/ A fortress/**

**B) Bread of life – the living water – the Rez and the life!**

**C) In the NC Jesus declared – no longer call you servants – now I call you friends**

1) Spirit in our hearts crying intimacy

**D) God invites us to draw near! -**

**Everything about it screams intimacy: The average Israelite would have longed for such a privilege**

**A) Which begs us to ask the question – why do so many believers insist on living on the fringe of Christianity – of this glorious NC**

**B) They continue to keep the Lord at a distance! –**

1) They know nothing of real intimacy and friendship and daily communion with the Lord

**C) Instead He is the one they think about occasionally – once a week in Church – pray to**

for a daily blessing – or cry out to in a jam

**D) They don't realize – Saved for fellowship – that is the glory of the New Covenant – New Part – intimacy with God –**

**Reminded me of** A farmer who repeatedly invited a friend into his apple orchard to taste the fruit and make some fresh cider. But, just as often, the friend said, *"No, I would rather not."*

**Finally, the farmer said, "I guess you are prejudiced against my apples."**

"Well, to tell the truth," his friend said, "I have tasted a few of them and they are very sour."

The farmer then asked which apples his friend had eaten. "Why, those apples which fell along the road over your fence," he replied.

"Ah, yes," said the farmer, "they are sour. I planted them to fool the boys who live around here. **But, if you will come into the middle of my orchard, you will find a different taste."**

**Those pp who live on the fringes of Christianity can find it kind of sour it is all about what they are giving up to make sure going to heaven.**

**A) Assurance of Salvation is the trade off – they make – but to them it is a sour pill to swallow – a sacrifice –**

**B) When all the while God is inviting them into the middle of His Orchard to partake of the delicious & sweet fruits fellowship and intimacy with God**

**C) Encourage you – come away from the fringes and see what this life is really about – that you might say like Peter**

**1) "Lord where would we go for in you are the words of eternal life."**

**D) The Christian life is about life – abundant life – joyous life!**

**E) Some believers live in this place of always wrestling with the World – One foot in the World one foot in the Church**

**1) Always battling to resist the world**

**In the Story of Ulysses / there was a certain Island called sirene / Beautiful women sang wonderful melodies songs of enchantment**

**A) Ships that were passing by the Island would here the music and they would be so entranced that they would turn in – toward Island / Rocks**

**B) No ships were able to make it past the Island**



C) Now Ulysses was determined to make it past the Island but he also wanted to hear the music / tied to the Mast / Men wax in their ears

When they Past by – Ulyesses was able to hear the music / screamed at his men to turn in / but they could hear him

D) He tried to break free of the ropes but it was to no avail

Once the ship was safely past the Island – His men untied him / they as a crew were able to survive

**But there was also another man who survived his name was orpheus**

A)Orpheus was a great musician & when he & his men were sailing by the Island / they heard the music / they were drawn / began to turn in

B) At that moment – Orpheus broke out his flute & began to play a song that was far superior to the song coming from the Island

His men were able to sail safely past

C) Like w/ Jesus it isn't that we are struggling – oh I have to keep myself from the world

But it is that the Music of Jesus in our hearts is so much better that there isn't a desire for the those other things / He is working in Me

So 2 Key Components – New Heart – His Spirit

New Part – Know God – Intimacy

**#3 A New Start: 34 - For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."**

A)Justification The Word Justification in the grk is Dikaioo . It is a term of Juresprudence - It is a legal term

B)It means more than the judge simply declaring that you have been forgiven / but it means that the Judge declares you Righteous

**C) The Judge Declares you RIGHT ON !!!!!**



**D) God declares – You are righteous / Justified – Your sins are forgiven & forgotten put as far as the E. from the West / Justified**

B) **Been Robed in the Righteousness of Christ** – which means I have the proper attire to enter into God's Presence!

C) Ever arrived under dressed to an occasion? Formal you didn't get the memo – Awkward – pp looking

1) God Clothes us in the Righteousness of Christ – Perfect fit – we enter into His Presence / prayer / worship / communion – We Belong

**New Start** – **Forgiven / forgotten Justified**

C) **New Part** – **Family Intimacy with God!**

D) **New heart** – God is doing an internal work / New Heart / Whole New Creation / HS cause you to walk

Encourage you today: Still living under the OC – Still trying to Be a good Christian – Work is done – Jesus

Living on the Fringe – Come into the middle

Learn to be led by the Spirit –

**PRAY!**