

Hebrews 8:10-12 A New Covenant, Part 2

The top innovations that have changed the way that we live in the last 75 yrs ?

1.) Air travel – no longer boat – or horse back – a journey that would take weeks/ months – now takes hrs.

2.) Cell Phones

3.) GPS technology { lost – female directions

Female voice - it's more pleasing to the ear / Men are always told by women where to go! Mr.T

4.) Bar codes {Changed way – Buy & sell

5.) Social networking { My Space/ Face book -

6.) TV dinners { Fast paced lives

7.) Play Station { Since July 2008 102 million units Sold – radio, Tv, Movies – Games

8.) Ipods {Started as Sony walk man – Boom box

9.) Lettuce in a bag { Variety of salads led to other bagged veggies

10.) Pay at the pump {

Now all of these things have become the norm in our society – things that it would be hard to imagine living without. Matters of Convenience

A) But this morning we are talking about something – that You and I cannot live without – New COV T

B) Not a matter of Convenience / but our entire Conduct and approach to life is impacted by our understanding of this incredible truth.

“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 has the equivalent of a master of divinity.”

Charles Spurgeon

So last time we began to look at the very important portion of Scripture. Where the writer is quoting from Jeremiah 31

Hebrews 8:10-12

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

We noted in our study last week there are 3 Key components – New Heart / New Part / New Start

A) **NEW HEART:** We looked at a companion passage to Jer.31 / written 100yrs later in the book of Ezk. Where the Lord gives further insight to NC

Ezekiel 36:26 –27 *²⁶I 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. ²⁷I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.*

B) **A New heart** – God was going to do a work on the inside / take your heart of Stone give you a heart of flesh – tender & responsive

1) The OC was purely External / based upon the External keeping of the 10 Commandments

C) **But The New Cov. Is an Internal work** – God says *Give you a New heart / write My will not on tables of stone but on the tables of your heart*

D) Not external rules & regulations to follow but a work that God is doing in our Hearts

E) He Places His spirit in us to empower us & enable us to walk after Him **A NEW HEART**

And Yet some believers are not experiencing the Joy and power of NC living

Let me illustrate it this way:

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

D) When they Past by – Ulysses was able to hear the music / screamed at his men to turn in / but they could not hear him

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

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

Many Christians go through life like Ulysses: Christianity to them is like being tied to the mast.

A) They still hear the music of Island or the world and they still are drawn to it.

B) But their Christian belief & their fear of Judgment has tied them to the mast so to speak

1) That keeps them from pursuing the music of the Island.

C)Now that is a **hard frustrating way to live** – they often long for the day – escape the world.

But there was also another man who survived, his name was Qrpheus

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

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 { Sailed safely past**

C)And those living in the NC are like Orpheus –

1) They have found in Jesus a New tune – that is far superior to the music coming from the Island

D)they are so in tune to the music in their hearts { Jesus' Melody - **that the songs of the world** – are having less and less attraction.

E)They have found that the Music of Jesus in their hearts is so much better that there isn't **a desire for those other things / He is working in Me**

C)**The Christian life for them is not so much about resisting the world – as it is about Joyfully following Jesus!**

D)**New Heart – Internal work**

#2 A New Part

v.10b – “ **and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.** 11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

I will be their God and they shall be my people!

A)This was a declaration of intimacy – Promise of the OC was if you do this then I will be your God and you will be my People.

B)Achieving intimacy with God was based solely on man's ability to perform.

C)But in the NC God says I am going to do something for you – **I am going to do a work** – that allows me to be your God and you to be my pp

D)Allows you to know me { Live in an intimate relationship with me!

Now at first glance this seems like a pretty simple statement especially in light of our Western Christianity view of God

A)Which often times is pretty casual. Big guy upstairs, my buddy, co-pilot

B)But lets really think about the magnitude of this statement. BACK TO BEGINNING

C) For most of you today I am not going to tell you anything that you don't know –

D) But I want to run the risk of boring you for the next few minutes in an attempt to paint a picture – that I hope will help you appreciate today afresh and maybe anew the magnitude of this statement.

Man started his relationship with God in Intimacy!

A) Walked together in the garden in the coolness of the day! –

B) Picture that – Adam and God walking / talking / Father & Son – friends

1) Master and Student – But then man rebelled – Sinned!

C) Result: Guilt – Man's conscience was suddenly aware that he had done wrong.

D) The guilt was followed by Shame: Adam and Eve suddenly realized they were naked and they felt ashamed. Genesis 3:8

Side note: Sin destroys Intimacy and Innocence

E) Next result of sin – Fear – Man hid

A Completely different picture of Man walking with God in the coolness of the day.

Intimacy and closeness replaced by guilt, shame and man cowering in Fear.

A) God made provision for man's sin – Death sacrifice – skins

B) But the intimacy was gone. – Sin-marred man was now separated from a perfect sinless God.

C) That would be the way things would remain for a few thousand yrs.

D) Every now and then there would be an exception – Enoch walked with God and was not.

E) Abraham was called the friend of God –

But even in those exceptions the moments of being close to God were few and far between.

A) There was Always the issue of man's sin and God's holiness and perfection.

B) Always the need of another Sacrifice.

When God gave the law, the OC to Moses on Mt. Sinai – the distance was highlighted

A) God's presence covered the mt in a cloud and only Moses was allowed to ascend into the cloud

B) The people were warned below to not even come near the base of the Mt or they would die.

Bb) Lightening and thunder – fire – Pp were freaked – said to Moses You go talk to God for us – and then tell us what He said –

C)We don't want God to talk to us –because He scares us!

D)**Distance:** Part of that distance and the Ominous & awesome representation of God – was meant to highlight THE HOLINESS OF GOD

1)It was to **radically emphasise** that God is Holy

After the law was given – God set up a system of worship in the OC

A)Tabernacle – Fence – inside – Altar – courtyard – inside the Courtyard was a tent= Tab

B)Only Jewish men could enter the courtyard-only as far as the Altar!

1)Sacrifice made – **animal identification**

C)Serious thing – Then Only Priest enter into the Tab itself

1)Only the Hp – the Holy of Holies

The whole set up spoke of distance!

A)In the mind of the average Israelite – Moses knew God, Joshua Knew God – The priest, especially the HP knew God { **NOT ME – NOT AVERAGE GUY**

So too the Gentiles living in the first century influenced by Greek Mythology

A)The gods were not creatures you could Know – they simply were creatures you tried not to upset.

B)Every bad thing from weather, crops, deaths, was associated with making the gods angry.

C)That is very much the same mentality in many of the African tribal areas today.

1)The gods are meant to be feared – and avoided

D)You cannot dream of knowing them –

But Now in the NC we hear God say: “You can all KNOW ME! – greatest to the SMALLEST”

A)**No Hierarchy** { Priest were Mediators but Now in the NC God says – you all are priests – Royal Priesthood

B)All on an equal plane – all have an audience with God – 10yr old kid can be as close to God as Billy Graham –

1)Really – Know Me just as much

C)Hard for us to fathom

Billy Graham went to see the Pope in Rome. While he was waiting, Billy noticed a red phone. As he was ushered in to talk to the Pope, he asked, "What's the red phone for?" "That's to talk to God," came the reply. "Really," Billy gasped, "how much does such a call cost? **Pope - it's an awful long way?" \$1,000 a minute, but it's well worth it."**"

Some weeks later, Billy Graham went to see the Chief Rabbi in Jerusalem. He noticed that he, too, had a red phone. "I don't suppose," asked Billy, "that this phone is to talk to God?"

"Yes it is." Said the Chief rabbi .

"And how much does that cost?" Billy inquired.
\$1.00 a minute," shrugged the chief rabbi.
"How come it's so cheap?" Billy asked, "the Pope has a phone like that and it costs \$1,000 a minute!"

"Well," grinned the Chief Rabbi, "From here it's just a local call."

Well guess what? – for all of us in the NC it is a local call – in fact it doesn't even cost 35 cents

A)Hey you can all know Me – Really relationship – daily fellowship

B)Walk with God on the beach today –

C)Talk to Him and know that He hears you – whisper in your heart back – Speak in His word

1)Comfort by His Spirit.

This is the message of redemption: God wants us to Know Him! He made a way Possible!

A)See the Positive thinker – lives in Denial – I am ok – you are ok –

B)We don't need God or “of course God would want to know us – We are special”

C)The New ager lives in Delusion – Shirley on the beach I am god you are god – No you are not

The Christian lives in reality

A)We know what we are – we are messed up – Full of Sin/ marred / undesirable – Know our hearts

B)Rebellious / selfish/ enemies/ Depraved/ a mess

C) This is what I am – I am messed up – God is holy – Perfect – I am stained –UNHOLY - flawed

D)Because God wanted me to be able to Know Him –
1)He reached down in an effort to deal with my unholiness

E)Make me holy and righteous { Blood of Jesus!

Because of that God can say: You can know Me – I will be YOUR God – YOU MY PEOPLE.

John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

B)Know = Ginosko: "To know intimately in a relationship."

C)Know Him as creator { More than than

D)Know about Him - Dr. J

1)Dr. J – read books – He was my hero – Hair - his shoes – I even shook his hand once – But – I didn't know Dr. J

E)Do you know a lot about Jesus or do you know Jesus

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."

There are 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 of 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!

Song “Lord you are more precious than silver – Lord you are more costly than gold, Lord you are more beautiful than diamonds and nothing I desire compares with you.”

Close { Not saved -

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 his orchard

Walk { Relationship

Pick up His word – Lord I want to know you!