

ISBC 2018 Interest Group

THE NEW COVENANT

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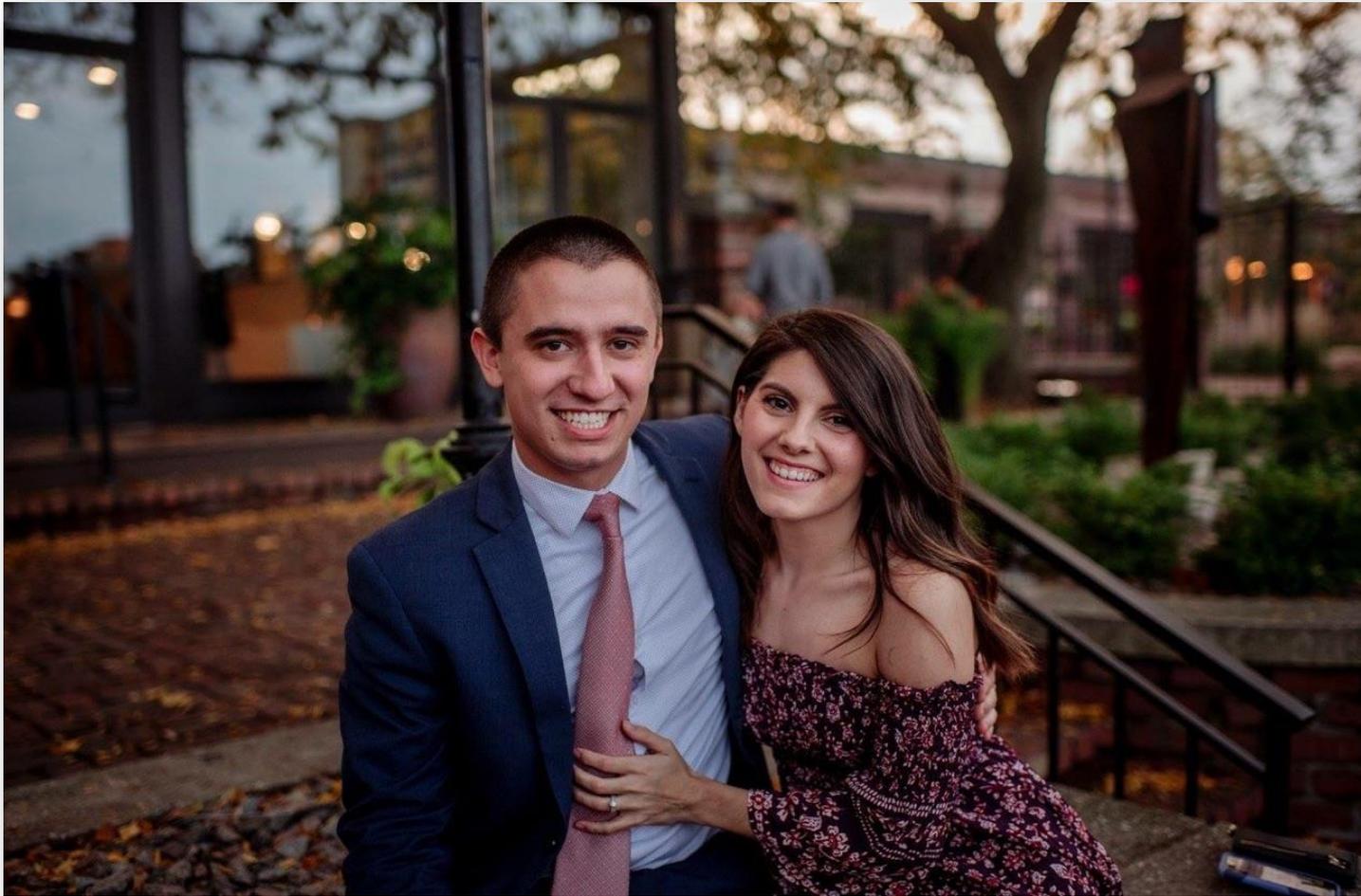
James' Family



John's Family



Alex's Family



Paul's Family



Opening Prayer

Objectives

1. Review the history of covenants in the Bible
2. Discuss the New Covenant's superiority and its implications
3. Enjoy the fullness of the New Covenant today

Overview

- I. Intro: Why talk about it?
- II. Covenants in the Bible
- III. A New Covenant through Jesus
- IV. The superiority of the New Covenant (Heb 8:10-12)
 - a. Better promises
 - b. Law, mercy and grace
 - c. A new relationship with the Holy Spirit
 - d. Enjoying the gospel in its fullness
 - i. Jesus our Savior
 - ii. Jesus our Baptizer
 - iii. Jesus our Example
 - e. Application
- V. Conclusion

Intro: Why Talk about It?

“For I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, because it is **the power of God** for **the salvation** of everyone who **believes**: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”
(Romans 1:16)



Without Sun



With Sun



Sunshine for Spiritual Growth

The word of God

The blood of Jesus

The grace of God

The indwelling Holy Spirit

Covenants in the Bible

A New Covenant through Jesus

Covenants in the Bible

- Covenants between God and his people are a central to the Bible.
- An agreement between two parties and involving solemn promises.
- Hebrew *bĕriyth* = "to cut."
- To ratify the agreement the two parties would pass through the cut bodies of slain animals (Ge 15; Jer 34:18).

Covenants in the Bible

- The remarkable thing is that God is holy, omniscient, and omnipotent; but he consents to enter into covenant with man, who is feeble, sinful, and flawed.
- God wants to restore our broken relationship with him.

Abrahamic covenant

- “The LORD had said to Abram, ‘Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to **the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation**, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples on earth will be blessed through you**’” (Ge 12:1-3).
- God commanded circumcision as the "sign of covenant" (Ge 17:10-11).

Abrahamic covenant

- God promised to renew the covenant with Isaac (Ge 17:19-21).
- At Bethel, God gave similar promises to Jacob (Ge 28:10-15; 35:11-13).

Mosaic Covenant

- God remembered Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and brought their descendants out of slavery in Egypt.
- On the way to Canaan, God made a covenant with them at Mt. Sinai.
- **“If you obey me fully and keep my covenant,”** he told them through Moses, **“then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.... You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation”** (Ex 19:5-6).

Mosaic Covenant

- The people agreed to do everything the Lord commanded (Ex 19:8). They asked Moses to be their mediator for this covenant (Ex 20:1-19).
- **The Ten Commandments** formed the core. “The words of the covenant — **the Ten Commandments**” — were written on tablets of stone (Ex 34:28).
- In this covenant, the people agreed to worship and serve God alone, and he agreed to protect them.

I am the Lord thy God

Thou shalt have no
other gods before
me

Thou shalt not make unto
thee any graven image

Thou shalt not take
the name of the lord
thy God in vain

Remember the sabbath
day to keep it holy

Honor thy father and
thy mother

Thou shalt not kill

Thou shalt not commit
adultery

Thou shalt not steal

Thou shalt not bear
false witness

Thou shalt not covet

Covenants in the Bible

- The Abrahamic covenant, although it included obligations, **stressed God's promise.**
- The Mosaic covenant, although it included mercy and promises, **stressed human responsibilities.**

Covenants in the Bible

- On the verge of entering the Promised Land God renewed the Mosaic covenant with Israel (Deut 1:1-5).
- **God promised blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience.**
- Moses reminded them that they were making a covenant with the Lord for themselves and their descendants (Deut 29:12-14). He exhorted them to be faithful to this covenant (Deut 29:9).

A New Covenant Prophesied (1)

- The Old Covenant's fatal flaw: The people lacked the heart to obey (Deut 31:16-21, 27-29). **The fault was with the people** (Heb 8:7-8).
- Lacked power to transform the heart or the conscience (Heb 9:9).
- The sacrificial rituals were not effective (Heb 9:7-9; 10:1-3).
- They remained in slavery to sin because of calloused hearts, blinded eyes, and ears (Mt 13:14-15; 2 Co 4:4).
- The prophets predicted a ***new* relationship between God and humans.**

A New Covenant Prophesied: Isaiah

- God would make the Servant “to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles” (Isa 49:8; 61:1).
- “The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins.” God will make a covenant with these repentant people. His Spirit will be upon them, and his words will remain in them (Isa 59:20-21).
- The Servant himself would be the covenant for Jews and Gentiles.

A New Covenant Prophesied: Jeremiah

- Jeremiah predicted a new covenant
 - Which the people would not break
 - God's law would be in their minds and hearts
 - All the people would know the Lord
 - their sins would be forgiven
 - and God would never reject the people (Jer 31:31-34).

A New Covenant Prophesied: Ezekiel

- Ezekiel also foresaw that God would remember the covenant and regather the people; he would then “establish an everlasting covenant with you.” He would make atonement for the people, and they would be repentant (Ezk 16:60-62).

A New Covenant Prophesied

- All these prophets predicted a new covenant
- This covenant addressed the problem of defective hearts of the people
- It would be an everlasting covenant of peace, a covenant of reconciliation.

A New Covenant through Jesus (1)

- The New Covenant is the promise that God makes with humanity that He will forgive sin and restore fellowship with those whose hearts are turned toward Him.
- **Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant, and His death on the cross is the basis of the promise.**
- **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you”(Lk 22:20).**
- Just as the Sinaitic covenant was sealed with animal blood, **the new covenant was ratified when Jesus’ blood was poured out on the cross.**



A New Covenant through Jesus (2)

- Under the New Covenant, we are given the opportunity to receive salvation as a free gift (Eph 2:8–9).
- **Entering the New Covenant is made possible only by faith in Christ**, the One who fulfilled the Law on our behalf and brought an end to the Law's sacrifices through His own sacrificial death.
- Through the life-giving Holy Spirit who lives in all believers (Ro 8:9–11), we share in the inheritance of Christ and enjoy a permanent, unbroken relationship with God (Heb 9:15).

The Superiority of the New Covenant

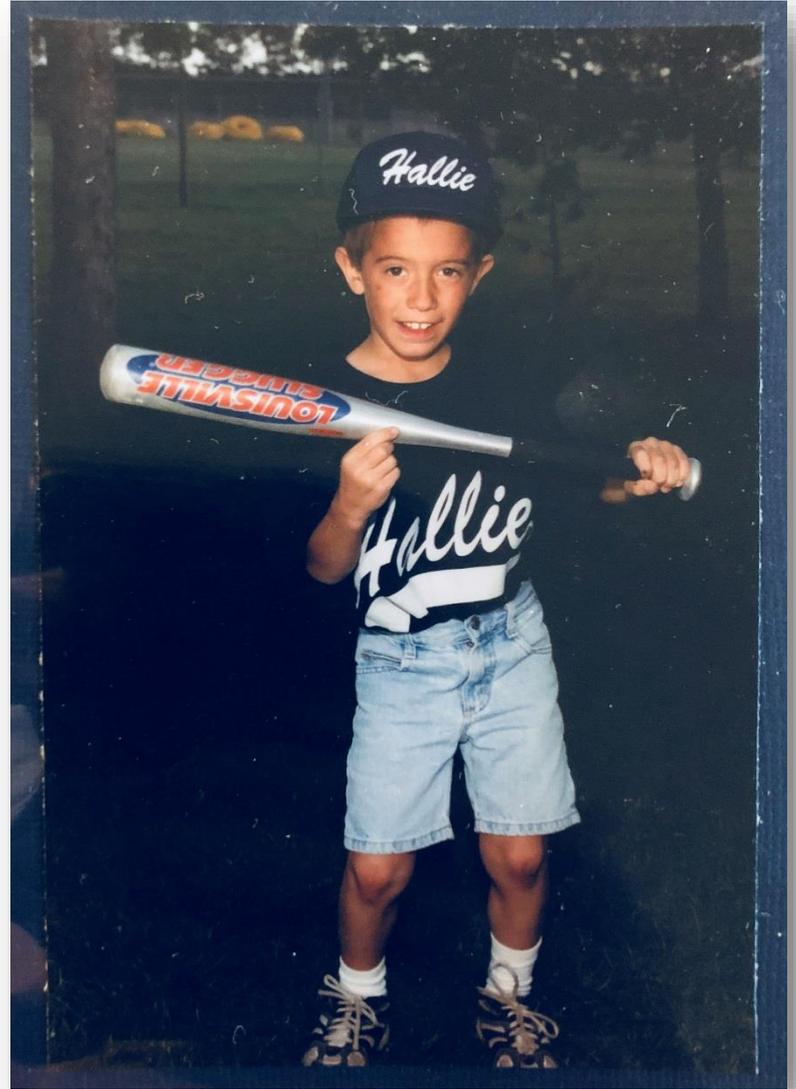
Better Promises

Better Promises

“This is the covenant **I will** establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. **I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.** No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For **I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.**” (Heb 8:10-12, Jer 31:33-34)

Better Promises (1)

- **“I will put my laws into their minds and write them on their hearts” (Heb 8:10).** In the old covenant, God wrote his laws on the outside—on tablets of stone. Now he writes his laws inside us. That means God will help us to obey him.
- The Lord writing his laws in our minds = Gives us **desire to keep** his laws.
- The Lord writing his laws on our hearts = Gives us **ability to keep** those laws.
- The old covenant was full of “You shall’s and You shall not’s.” In the new covenant however, God says, “I will, I will, I will.” (master/servant vs husband/wife)



Better Promises (2)

- **“They will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest” (Heb 8:11).** In the new covenant, we can know God as our **“Father.”**
- Because of our relationship with our **Abba, Father,** He no longer deals with us as enemies; instead, we can approach Him **with “boldness”** (Heb 10:19) and in **“full assurance of faith”** (Heb 10:22).
- The Holy Spirit **“testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ”** (Ro 8:16–17).

Better Promises (2)

- Becoming a child of God is the highest and most humbling of honors. Because of it we have **a new relationship with God and a new standing before Him.**
- Instead of running from God and trying to hide our sin like Adam and Eve did, **we run to Him, calling, “Abba, Father!” and finding forgiveness in Christ.**
- Being an adopted child of God is **the source of our hope, the security of our future, and the motivation to “live a life worthy of the calling you have received”** (Eph 4:1).
- Being children of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords calls us to a **higher standard, a different way of life,** and, in the future, “an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade” (1 Pet 1:4).

Better Promises (2)

- When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He began with the words *Our Father*.
- The holy and righteous God, who created and sustains all things, who is all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present, not only allows us but *encourages* us to call Him “Father.” What a privilege is ours!
- What amazing grace that God would love us so, that **Jesus would sacrifice Himself for us, and that the Holy Spirit would indwell us and prompt our intimate cry of “Abba, Father!”**

Better Promises (3)

- **God promises not only to forgive our sins, but also never to remember our past sins (Heb 8:12).**
- Under the old covenant, there was a constant remembrance of past sins. But in the new covenant there is no remembrance of past sins at all.
- You may have lived a very wicked life, but once you are forgiven and justified by the blood of Christ, **God sees you as though you had never sinned in your entire life!** This is the wonder of justification.
- Once you enter the new covenant, you must not look back to your past, except in gratitude to God for having forgiven you so much.

Better Promises (3)

- We receive much more than forgiveness. Matthew 1:21 says, “He will **save** his people from their sins.” This is the meaning of the name “**Jesus.**”
- To be saved from sin is to be saved from anger, the lust of the eyes, covetousness, bitterness, jealousy, etc. It means that he will **save us from being enslaved to sin.**
- As new covenant Christians, we can have **salvation from our sins here on earth.** We are no longer slaves but victors over sin.

Law, Mercy, Grace

A New Relationship with the Holy Spirit

Law and Grace

- **“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” (Jn 1:17)**
- God’s law tells us that he:
 - Desires holiness to characterize the way we live. Only God’s grace can provide such godliness in our lives.
 - Wants Christ-like love to permeate our attitudes and relationships. Only God’s grace can develop such love in us.
 - Desires the perfections of the Father to be growing in us. Only God’s grace is sufficient to carry out such a process of transformation.

The Law is the “What”

Grace is the “How”

The Law of God	The Grace of God
Reveals sin	Forgives sin
Indicates man’s problem	Provides God’s remedy
Demands performance by man	Offers provision from God
Is the standard	Is the means
Is the spiritual measuring rod that evaluates lives	Is the nurturing resource that produces spiritual life
Tells us of the character of God	Reproduces that character in us

Law and Grace

- The essential difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant: **“For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.”**
(Romans 6:14)
- When you are not under law but under grace, **sin cannot be master over you.**
- If you are not under grace but under law, then **sin will have the mastery over you.**

Mercy and Grace

- “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive **mercy** and find **grace to help us in our time of need.**” (Heb 4:16)

Mercy	Grace
God’s forgiveness of our past sins	God’s help to overcome sin in our time of need God’s power over temptation to avoid sin in the first place
Commonly found in the O.T.	Commonly found in the N.T.
<i>A covering</i> over of sin	Complete <i>cleansing</i> of sin

Mercy and Grace

Mercy



Grace



A New Relationship with the Holy Spirit

- In the Old Testament, the Spirit would come and go from the saints, empowering them for service but not necessarily remaining with them (Jud 15:14; 1 Ch 12:18; Ps 51:11; Ezk 11:5).
- Jesus revealed to his disciples the new role the Holy Spirit would play in their lives: “Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from **within them**” (Jn 3:38-39).
- The apostle Paul wrote, “Do you not know that your body is a **temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you...**” (1 Co 6:19).

A New Relationship with the Holy Spirit

- God's Spirit came upon Gideon, Samson, Saul and David and he used them to deliver the Israelites from their enemies.
- But their unclean hearts fell to adultery and idolatry.
- At Pentecost God poured his Spirit into believers hearts, **cleansing them from the inside first and then filling them.**
- Then the water began to flow from the "*innermost being*" (Jn 7:38).



A New Relationship with the Holy Spirit

- The believer in Christ has become the inner sanctum of God the Holy Spirit, as the believer has been sanctified and forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ (Eph 1:7).
- When we accept Christ as our Savior (Ro 10:9–13), the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our heart, bringing with Him an entirely new life of love, relationship, and service to the Lord.
- “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.” (Acts 1:8)

A New Relationship with the Holy Spirit

- John the Baptist said, “I baptize you with water, but **he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit**” (Mk 1:8).
- Jesus has come from *heaven* to baptize us with the Holy Spirit and bring *heaven* into our hearts.
- The primary mark of a truly Spirit-filled Christian is that he is *heavenly-minded* and not earthly-minded.

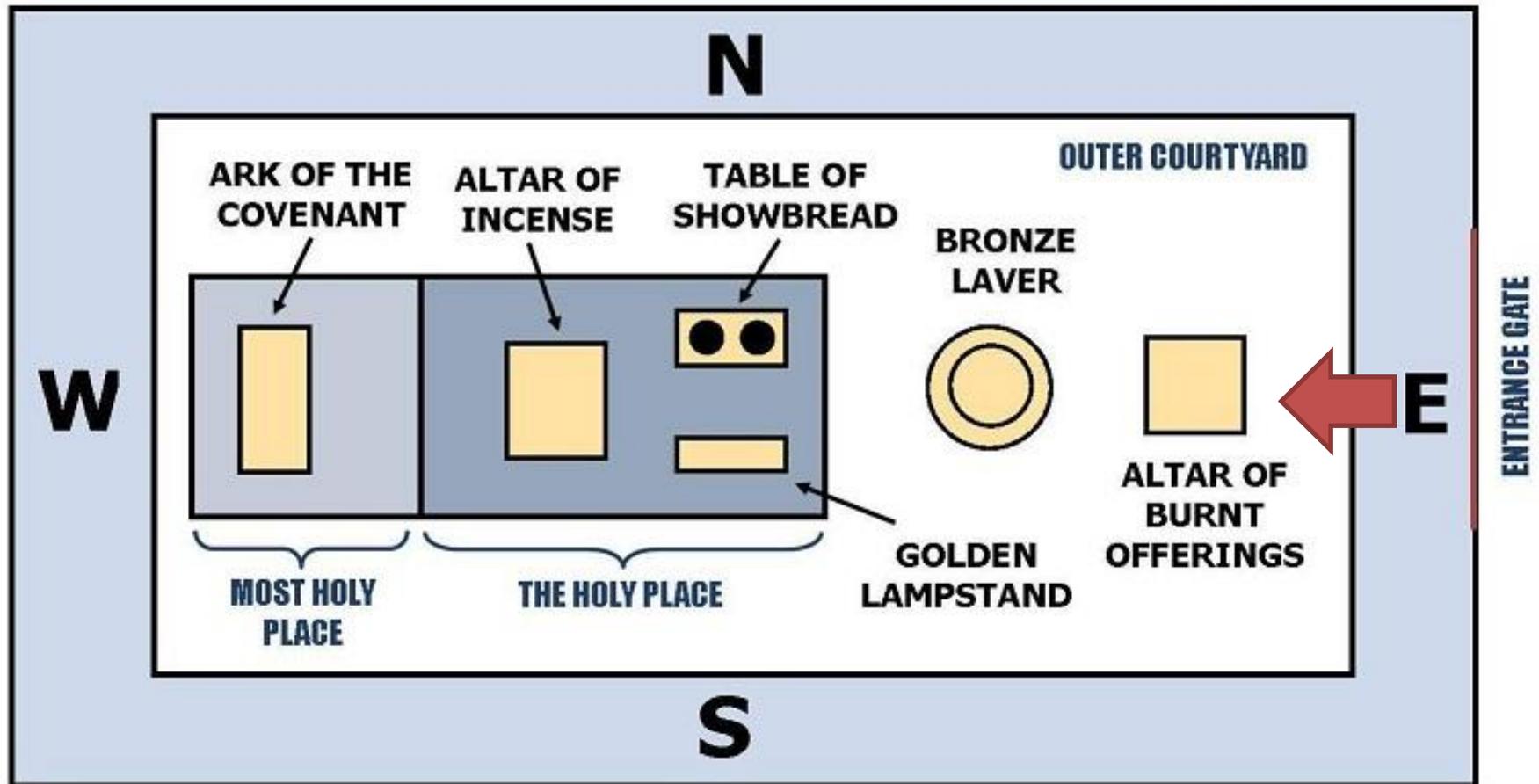
The Full Gospel

The Full Gospel

- The tabernacle was a God-given symbol of his dwelling place.
- In its symbolism, we can see what the full gospel is and how we can enter into the enjoyment of God's presence and his full purpose for our lives.
- The tabernacle had three parts to it - **the outer court, the holy place and the most holy place** - representing three parts of the full gospel.

The Tabernacle

THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES (EXODUS 35-40)

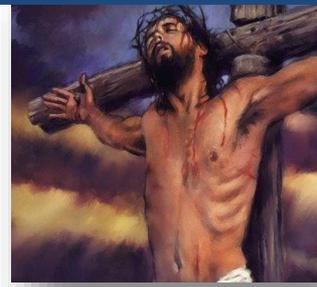


The Full Gospel

- The apostle Paul spent three years in Ephesus, preaching night and day (Acts 20:31). What did he preach?
- To the unconverted heathen, he preached **repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ** (Acts 20:21).
- But to those who had become believers he preached "**the whole purpose of God.**" (Acts 20:27)

- Many think that they have experienced the “full gospel” when they have known Jesus as Savior and Baptizer in the Holy Spirit.
- But Hebrews 6:1-2 tells us this is only the beginning of the Christian life: “Therefore let us move beyond **the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.”
- This is the **milk** that newborn babies in Christ need to drink first (Heb 5:13). We need to go on to experience **the solid food of the full gospel**.

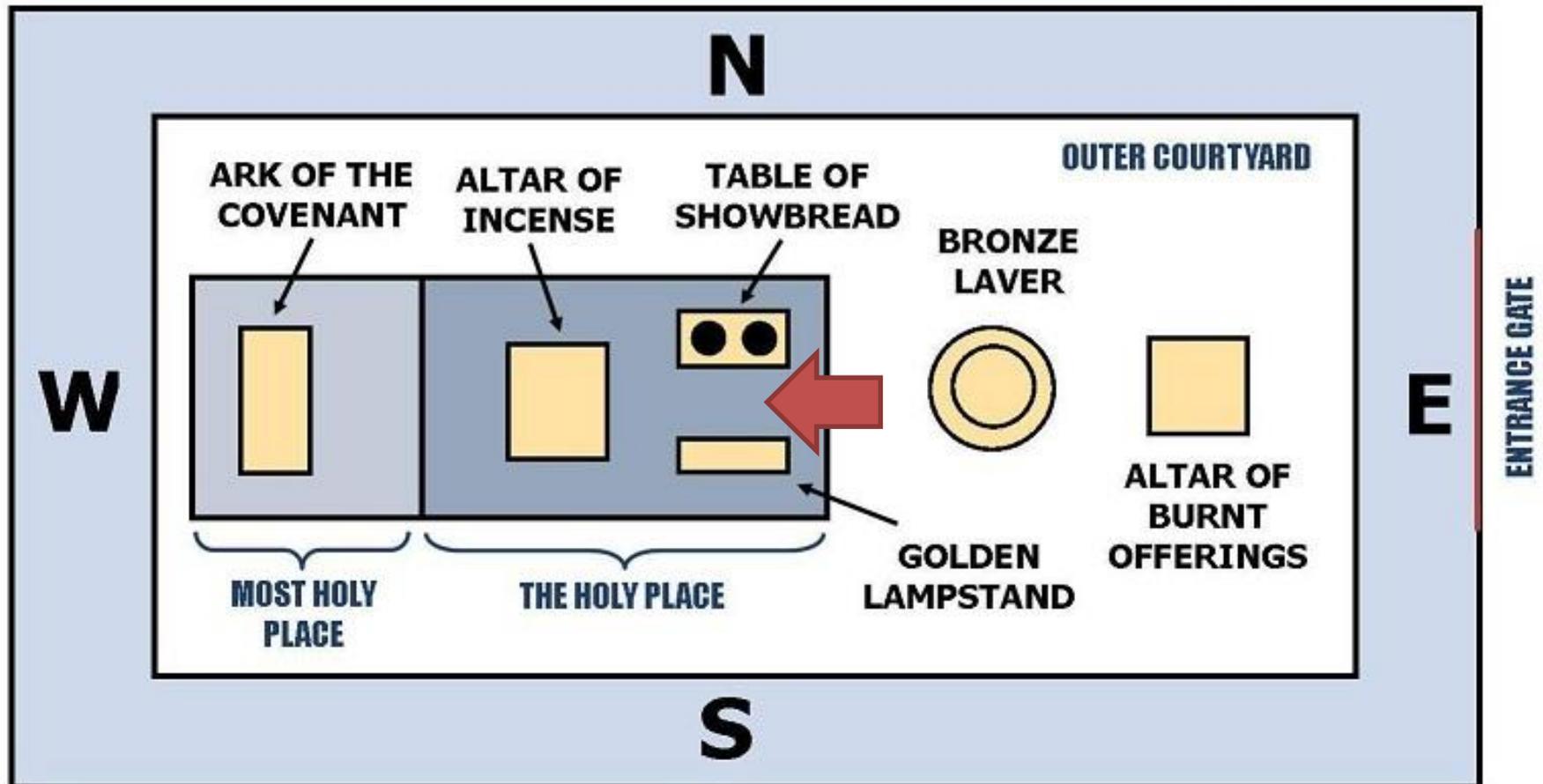
The Full Gospel: Jesus Our Savior



- In the outer court, there were **the altar of sacrifice and the laver of water (for washing)**.
- The altar represents the message of **“Christ crucified for our sins.”**
- The laver represents **the external cleansing of our lives** (Heb 10:22), and **the washing of regeneration** (Tit 3:5) that we testify to in the baptism in water (Acts 22:16).
- This is the first stage of Christian life – where **one repents and trusts in Jesus as Savior and is then baptized in water.**

The Tabernacle

THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES (EXODUS 35-40)



The Full Gospel: Jesus Our Baptizer

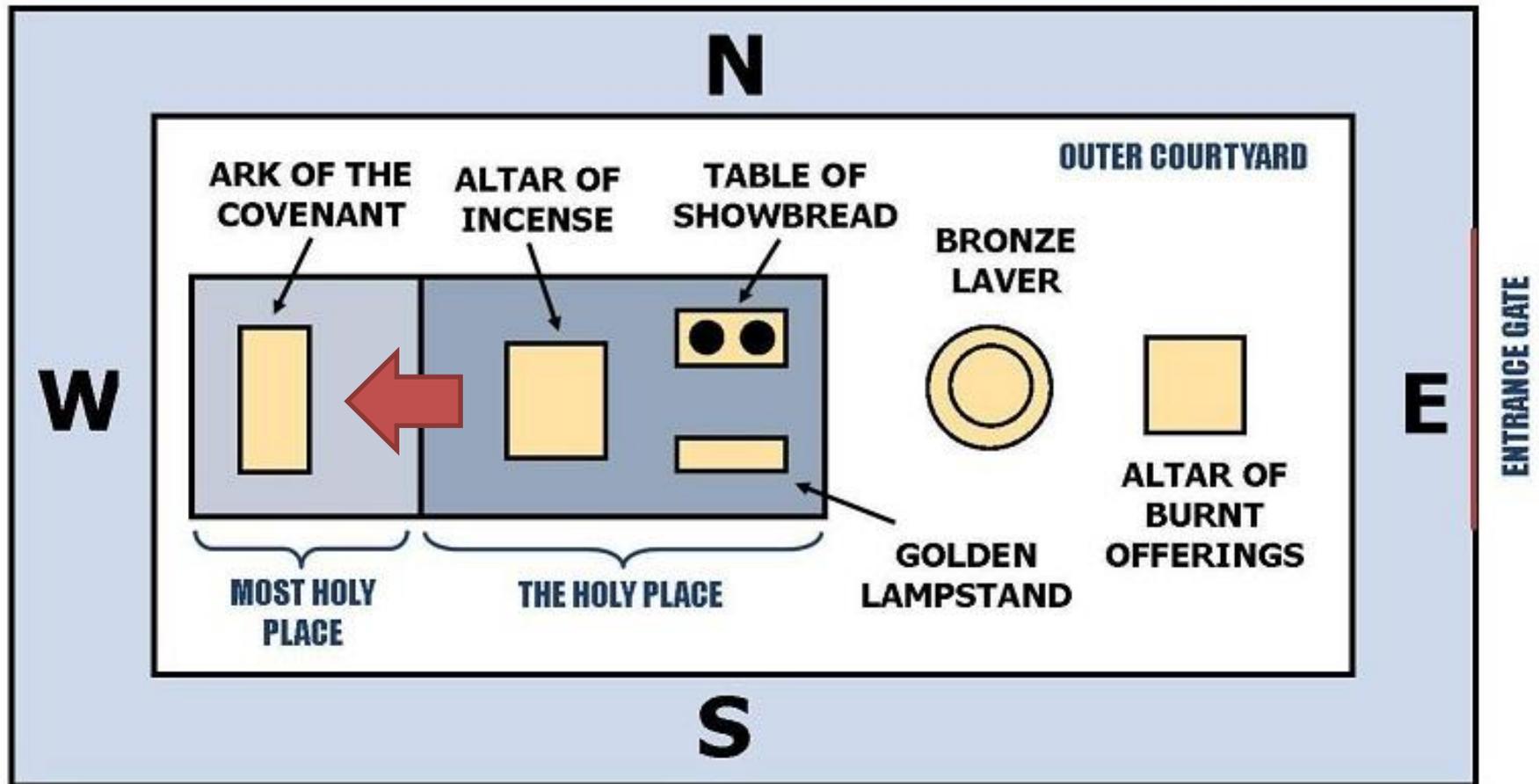
- Whereas the outer court was open to all the Israelites (but not to the heathen), **the Holy Place** was open only to the priests - to those who were engaged in the service of the Lord.
- In the Old Testament, the most important requirement to serve the Lord - whether as a prophet, priest or king - was the **“anointing of the Holy Spirit.”**
- The Lord desires to lead His children from 'the outer court' into this realm - to the anointing of the Spirit and the exercise of spiritual gifts for his service.

The Full Gospel: Jesus Our Baptizer

- The Holy Place had three items of furniture in it:
 1. **The lampstand:** Which symbolized the anointing giving us power to be **witnesses** for Christ (Ac 1:8).
 2. **The table of showbread:** Which represented the anointing giving us **revelation** on the word (2 Co 3:18).
 3. **The altar of incense:** Which symbolized the anointing giving us power in **prayer** (Ro 8:26-27).
- To reach thus far is to reach the second stage of Christian life - receiving not only the forgiveness of sins and water-baptism, but the **baptism in the Holy Spirit** as well.

The Tabernacle

THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES (EXODUS 35-40)



The Full Gospel: Jesus Our Example

- Old Testament saints could receive many blessings from God but through Jesus we can receive much greater blessings.
- “And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment **the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.**” (Mt 27:50-51)
- “Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to **enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way** opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body.” (Heb 10:19-20)



"A NEW AND

LIVING WAY"

Heb. 10:20

Through the veil"

"IT IS FINISHED"

THE OLD COVENANT

EARTHLY SANCTUARY

2012

The Full Gospel: A New and Living Way

- The veil can be metaphorically seen as man's **self-will** that blocks off the presence of God from him.
- “Those who belong to Christ Jesus **have crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires.” (Gal 5:24)
- The vast majority of Christians dwell in the outer court, some in the Holy Place.
- We can follow Jesus' example and become like Jesus **by partaking in his nature (victory over sin and love for others, living before God not man), entering into the Most Holy Place. How?**

The Full Gospel: Take Up Our Cross Daily

- Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and **take up their cross daily** and follow me.” (Lk 9:23)
- 2 Corinthians 4:10 says that "we always carry around in our body **the death of Jesus**, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."

The Full Gospel: Dying to Our Self-Will

- We cannot die for the sins of the world like Jesus did. He alone did that. He tore the veil and opened the new and living way for us.
- We don't have to tear the veil a second time now, for it has already been torn. The way into God's presence is permanently open.
- **To walk in the way of the cross** means that we are perpetually **dying to our self-will**.

If We Die to Our Self-Will

- **If we die to our self-will**, God promises to produce the new wine of the life of Jesus in us (*2 Co 4:10*).
- Jesus is our Example who walked this way of self-denial before us. **Through this new and living way, we can dwell in the Most Holy Place all the days of our life.**
- This is not a once-for-all experience like entering through a door. **It is a way that we must walk on, day by day.**

The Essence of the New Covenant

The Essence of the New Covenant

- What was the fault with the old covenant? It could not make anyone perfect.
- What is the mark of Christians who live under the old covenant today? They are afraid of the word “perfection.”
- What is the essence of the new covenant? **It can make people perfect in their conscience and thus help them to press on to perfection in their life, till one day they become like Jesus.**

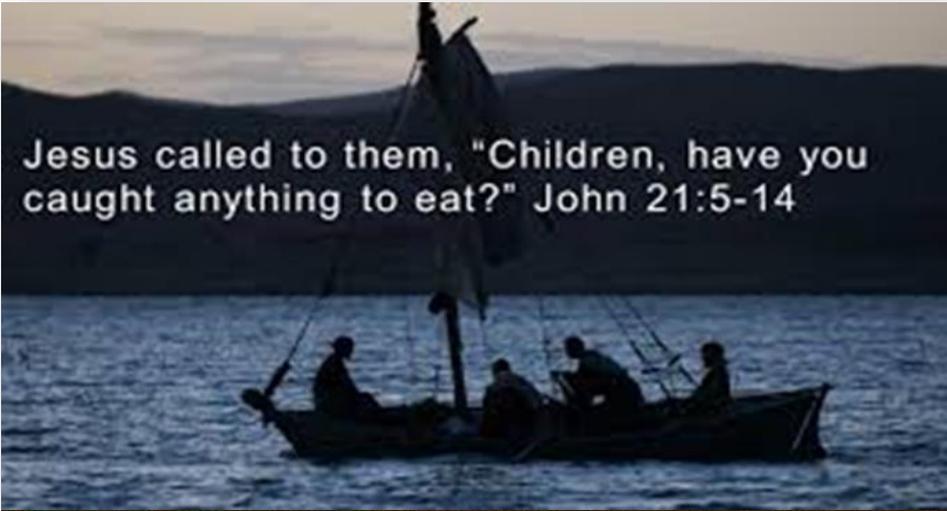
The law merely gave commandments, but under grace, God has provided us **not only with commandments, but also with an Example (Jesus in his earthly life) and a Helper (the Holy Spirit), to enable us to keep the commandments.**

The Gospel of the New Covenant

- This is the gospel of the new covenant. Where this gospel is not understood, man tends to swing:
- either to one extreme of **legalism** (striving all night forever and forever, with empty boats and no victory)
- or to the other extreme of a **false grace** (where there is no striving at all and no victory either!).

The New Covenant:

Jesus called to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" John 21:5-14



- “No.” They answered. They caught nothing. That is a picture of man striving under the law!
- Jesus said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” Jesus filled their boat with fish miraculously.
- We have to come to an end of ourselves and confess that “apart from Jesus, we can do nothing” before the Lord will come and meet our need—for victory over sin or whatever.

Why Did God Choose Me?

Why Did God Choose Me?

- In John 15:16 Jesus says, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and **bear fruit—fruit that will last**—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”
- Ephesians 1:4 says, “He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be **holy and blameless** in his sight.”
- 1 Peter 2:9 says, “You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may **declare the praises of him** who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

What Should Our Response Be?

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to **offer your bodies as a living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:1-2)

What Should Our Response Be?

- We must **present our bodies to God daily as a living sacrifice** (Ro 12:1). “Lord, here are my eyes, my tongue, my hands, my feet, my ears, my bodily passions—I lay everything on the altar.”
- We must give him our minds to be renewed (Ro 12:2). As we read and obey God’s word, the Holy Spirit transforms us into the likeness of Christ by renewing our minds. We will be able to **look at everything the way God looks at them.**

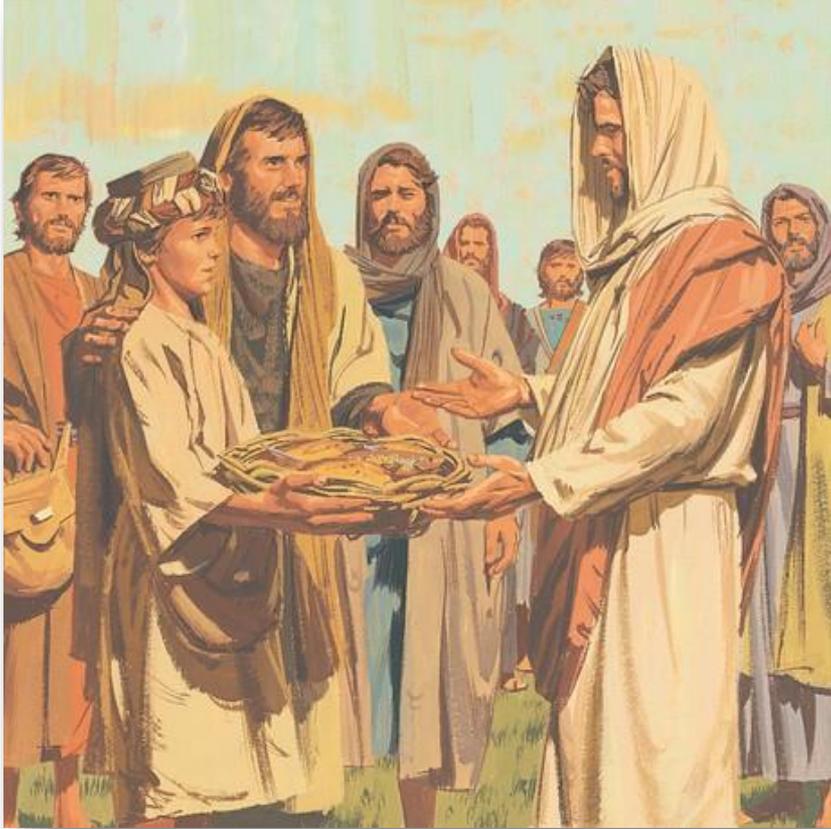
Application

The New Covenant: Fellowship in the body of Christ



- The new covenant leads the disciples of Jesus into **an inward sanctification**, that in turn leads to **fellowship one with another**.
- This was the **unity** that Jesus longed to see in them but never saw, because the Holy Spirit was not indwelling Peter and John then.
- But things have changed now—for the Holy Spirit had come and dwelt within them.

The New Covenant: A partnership with Jesus



- In the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus could have produced food from nothing by himself. But He did not do that.
- He invited his disciples to partner with him in feeding the five thousand (*Mk 6:30-44*).
- The disciples did what they could; and Jesus did what He could!

The New Covenant:

The foundation of new covenant service



- New covenant service is based on **love for the Lord**.
- The Lord wants only those who love him with all their hearts (more than everything else), to serve him.
- Do you love him more than everything else?

The New Covenant:

The Principle of all new covenant service

- “In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to **do** and to **teach**.” (Acts 1:1)
- He preached only what he had already practiced. This is the principle of all new covenant service.
- The apostle Paul said, “**Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ**” (1 Co 11:1).
- “By the **grace** of God I am what I am, and his **grace** to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the **grace** of God that was with me.” (1Co 15:10)

*Follow Me
As I follow
Christ*

1CO 11:1



Conclusion

- Jesus established a better covenant, the New Covenant, through his blood and opened the new and living way for us to be saved from our sin and grow in the image of Christ.
- The law merely gave commandments, but under grace, God has provided us **not only with commandments, but also with an Example (Jesus in his earthly life) and a Helper (the Holy Spirit), to enable us to keep the commandments.**
- We can follow Jesus' example and **become like Jesus** by partaking in his nature (victory over sin and love for others, living before God not man), entering into the Most Holy Place.

Questions & Answers

We Are God's People

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5LYhB67bbo>

We Are God's People (1)

We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
Born of His Spirit, established by His Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone,
And strong in Him we stand:
O let us live transparently
And walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

We Are God's People (2)

We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
For we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
Now let us learn how to return
The gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care,
And live with a zeal that pleases Heaven.

We Are God's People (3)

We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family,
Diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God,
And so shall his work on earth be done.

We Are God's People (4)

We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
Formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
 We die alone, for on its own
 Each ember loses fire:
 Yet joined in one the flame burns on
To give warmth and light, and to inspire.

References

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- Grace Communion International, *Comparison of Old and New Covenants*
- Jack Zavada, *Old Covenant vs. New Covenant*
- Zac Poonen, *Better Promises of the New Covenant*
- Bob Hoekstra, *Law and Grace, Old Covenant and New Covenant*
- Zac Poonen, *The New Covenant and the Full Gospel*
- J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*
- Charles Ryrie, *The Holy Spirit*

Diagrams

- Curtain Torn: <https://i2.wp.com/i.pinimg.com/736x/59/1b/be/591bbe04d7598a19eebde8caaeba4cfb.jpg?resize=300%2C298&ssl=1>
- Gray Tabernacle Diagram: <http://messianic-revolution.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/the-tabernacle-of-moses-only.jpg>
- Yellow Tabernacle Diagram: <https://inthebeginningnow.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/tabernacle.png>
- Jesus Carrying Cross: <http://www.preachersmagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/carry-cross-600x350.jpg>

Comparing the Old and New

Feature	Old Covenant	New Covenant
When established	At Exodus	At Crucifixion
Parties: God and...	Nation Israel	Christians
People redeemed from bondage	In Egypt	In Sin
Mediator of the covenant	Moses	Jesus Christ
Ratified by blood of...	Animals	Jesus Christ
Promises offered	Prosperity, national security, become God's treasured possession	Eternal life, children of God, know God, forgiveness with God forever
Contact with God	Through priesthood	Individual comes to God's throne

Feature	Old Covenant	New Covenant
Initiation sign of the covenant	Circumcision	Conversion of the heart
Continuing sign of the covenant	Observance of the Sabbaths	New life of faith in Christ
Obligations	Obedience to the law that was given through Moses	Be perfect, believe, obey Christ
Duration of the covenant	During time of temple, Levites, national Israel	Eternity
Priesthood	Aaron and sons	Jesus Christ, believers
High priest entered presence of God	Symbolically once a year on the Day of Atonement after offering the required blood sacrifices	Sat down at God's right hand forever, after offering his own blood for all

Feature	Old Covenant	New Covenant
Holy place of worship	Tabernacle in wilderness, temple in Jerusalem	Temple of the Spirit, wherever believers are
Sacrifices	Continual offering of animals and food offerings as a reminder of sins	Christ's one sacrifice, forgave sins, perfects the worshiper, clears conscience, Christian's life of service is a living sacrifice
Law	Ten commandments and 603 additional laws	Sermon on the Mount reveals Christian attitude, law of Christ fulfilled by loving God and humans
Contrast	The letter kills, slavery	Spirit gives life, freedom
Main Point	The law was a shadow the things to come	Jesus Christ, God in the flesh

Prayer

- Praise Jesus who established the New Covenant through his blood and opened the new and living way for us to be saved from our sin and grow in the image of Christ.
- Thank God who has provided us not only with commandments, but also with an Example (Jesus in his earthly life) and a Helper (the Holy Spirit), to enable us to keep the commandments.
- May the Lord God teach us the path of humble dependence upon grace through Jesus and enable us to depend on the Holy Spirit and live a holy and righteous life in the sight of God and build the church.