

The New Covenant – the Bible no longer Law but Seed

This is how I used to live (& possibly so did you):

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience:

2:3 Among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, just as others.

(Side note – the very next verse says that despite all this God still loved me – obviously His love has nothing to do with my behavior, that is unconditional love. His promises are conditional but His love isn't.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, - *is that amazing grace ?*)

The trouble with living that way is that God's laws or commandments were a constant reminder that I was doing wrong, even my conscience would accuse me:

Romans 3:20 . . . for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Romans 2:15 Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another,

Evidently the Law is not intended for Christians but for the ungodly to teach us where we've gone wrong and to bring us to Christ who accepts us by faith alone

I Timothy 1:9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

1:10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

Galatians 3:24 Therefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.

The bad news is that the law carries with it a curse for those that are under it and not completely keeping the whole of the law.

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continues not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

3:12 And the law is not of faith:

A detailed description of what it means to be cursed begins in Deuteronomy 28:16. For some of us to be under the curse of the law meant;

- *I really didn't want to work for a living but just stay on some kind of high*
- *If I do work somehow I don't get to keep much of what I make – it goes*
- *Even the things that I do get to keep don't seem to satisfy me for long*
- *Guilt and condemnation over what I've done or said are never far away*
- *Deep down I really don't like myself or what I've become*
- *That's why I'm always angry or fearful or both*

The good news is – Christ has redeemed me from the curse of the law so that I could receive the promise of God's Spirit:

Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree (*The Cross*):

3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Before Jesus I was under the law, which I didn't keep, and was therefore under the curse. After Jesus, I stay free of the law and its curse by living in the Spirit:

Galatians 5:18 But if you are led of the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Galatians 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law, you are fallen from grace.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace.

This is what fundamentally distinguishes the Old Covenant between God and man (the Law or an outward set of commandments) and the New Covenant between God and man (which is of the Spirit by grace and through faith). This new covenant is beautifully described in these scriptures:

Ezekiel 36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

36:28 And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Jeremiah 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel (*Israel means God ruled = The true church*); After those days, says the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Hebrews 10:16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

Over and over God says the new covenant or agreement between Him and man, that replaces the old covenant of an outward law, is that He will actually write his words (law) in our spirits (hearts) and cause us to keep them by His Spirit. Now how will His words get into our hearts ? Jesus answers that the written word of God is really seed and that to do any good it must be planted in and remain in my heart (spirit) – that means when God speaks to me personally by His spirit from the Bible or through a minister, I must hear it with my heart and believe it:

Mark 4:3 Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

4:4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

4:5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

4:6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

4:7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

4:8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

4:9 And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Mark 4:10 And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

4:11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all [these] things are done in parables:

4:12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

4:13 And he said unto them, Know you not this parable? and how then will you know all parables?

Mark 4:14 The sower sows the word.

Mark 4:15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan comes immediately, and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

(Compare the same verse as rendered in Matthew 13:19 When any one hears the word of the kingdom, and understands it not, then comes the wicked one, and catches away that which was sown in his heart.

This is he which received seed by the way side.)

Mark 4:16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

4:17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution arise for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

4:18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

4:19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

4:20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive [it], and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

Notice that the word of God must be (1) heard with the heart, not just read or heard or memorized with the head – in other words God must speak His word to me personally by His Spirit, otherwise there is nothing to hear, and (2) I must believe what I've heard in my spirit with my whole heart (and I must resist the various tricks of the devil to get God's words out of me)

Hebrews 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

This then is how God changes me, this then is how God slowly makes me more like Christ. The written words that look dead on the pages of my Bible (just like regular seed looks dead but isn't) come alive when they are planted in my heart. And just like ordinary seed always produces after its own kind so also each scripture seed sown in my heart when it grows will eventually reproduce in me that part of God's nature that it embodies;

- *Hearing and believing a salvation scripture is how God saved me*
- *Love scriptures will produce love*
- *Patience scriptures will produce patience*
- *Deliverance scriptures will set me free*
- *Healing scriptures will restore my health*
- *All scriptures entering in will increase my faith*

1 Peter 1 :23 Being born again . . . of imperishable seed by the word of God.

2 Peter 1:4 By which have been given to us exceeding great and precious promises that by these (*the scriptures, God's words*) we may be partakers of the divine nature . . .

Psalms 119:130 The entrance of thy words (*into my heart*) gives light . . .

When God's words are in my heart He may then choose to bring them forth by His Spirit as fruit that others can eat by having me speak them out of my mouth and so planting the seed into another's heart. In this way one scripture in one person's heart could be used to feed say five thousand others.