

-THE NEW COVENANT-

HE CAME UNTO HIS OWN, AND HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT. BUT AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM GAVE HE ALL THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND BLESSINGS OF THE NEW COVENANT. Jno 1:11,12. Does your Bible have it that way? It may not, but that is the way that people have been reading that passage for many years and generations.

What are the facts of the case? No one yet has ever come into the rights, privileges and blessings of the New Covenant. The New Covenant was offered to Israel as a nation. Israel as a nation rejected the offer. So just as Caleb and Joshua could not enter the land when the nation refused to enter because of unbelief, so AS MANY AS RECEIVED Christ were unable to enjoy the blessings of the New Covenant. It is purely a national question, not an individual question. So the few who did receive their Messiah could become sons of God. They could hope that in resurrection they might enter into the kingdom. But that is a long delay, just as in the case of Caleb and Joshua.

The night that the Lord celebrated the Passover with His disciples, He spoke of the New Covenant. On the cross He ratified it with His blood. The wine was to signify the blood of the New Covenant. But all the years up till the end of Acts, the disciples would have to observe the yearly Passover in sorrow, knowing that they could not enter into the enjoyment of the New Covenant until the nation repented.

Up to the end of Acts, the disciples were under law. Many thousands of believers were zealous of the law. It was all because the nation had not received the New Covenant. If it had, then they would have been freed from the law. Even Paul was subject to the law until the very last of Acts.

Strictly speaking, we do not live in New Testament times, as so many say, for New Testament times have never yet come.

-CAN YOU PAY THE PRICE-

Membership in the Church which is the Body of Christ is free in that it is obtained by faith. But before accepting this wonderful and exalted position, one should count the cost.

One thing that is involved is GROWING UP. The goal is to measure up to the stature of Christ which means spiritual maturity. One can no longer remain a babe. He can no longer thrive on milk, but must be able to take strong meat. Childish things must be put away.

Another requirement is that one WALK WORTHY of the calling. Those who enjoy all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies must bear themselves before others so that there will be no mistake about their citizenship. Unless one is willing to be lowly and meek with all long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, he had better not contemplate membership in the Body.

There is also something that one must keep and keep well if he is a member of the Body, and that is the UNITY OF THE SPIRIT. This is not kept in murmurings and strivings, but in the bond of peace.

One must put off the former way of living, THE OLD MAN. He must be renewed in the spirit of the mind, putting on the new man, which is the new nature or creation which is righteous and holy and cannot sin. (It is the old nature that sins).

One must be ready for spiritual warfare if he becomes a member of this Body. Only those of full age may bear arms, but here the believer must be able to put on THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD and be ready and willing to stand and withstand. No one who is a member of the Body can be excused as a conscientious objector in this spiritual warfare.

Last, but not least, a member of the Body must be ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE. Without this foundation it is impossible to comprehend the love of Christ.

One must listen to Christ. He must be instructed in truth by the Holy Spirit. This will entail a separation from former things.

--CO-CRUCIFIXION -

I AM CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST: NEVERTHELESS I LIVE; YET NOT I, BUT CHRIST LIVETH IN ME.

Galations 2:20.

Co-crucifixion means death together with Christ. It is a figure often used by the Holy Spirit. It illustrates the change which takes place in the true child of God.

No dead man has ever sinned. We should be dead to sin. A dead man does not have his feelings hurt, become offended, angry or impatient. We should be dead to all these selfish motives and desires. Just how dead are we?

In Rom. 6 we find the fullest exposition of this truth. The basis for it is the finished work of our Lord on the cross. Reference to us in the present tense in vs. 2,4,6,7,8 should be past. Thus v.6 will read, KNOWING THIS, THAT OUR OLD MAN WAS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM.

God sees us as having died on the cross in Christ. We should reckon ourselves as having thus died, just as God sees us. This figure should apply to our lives here and now.

BUT, even tho the Lord Jesus intended to die on the cross, He did not intend to stay dead. (See Jno. 10:17,18). Many of us are quite willing to be identified with Him as providing deliverance from the "wages of sin." But too few of us are willing to rise with Him to walk in newness of life. Both sides of the picture are set forth in Romans 6:4,11.

IF YE THEN BE RISEN WITH CHRIST, SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE..SET YOUR AFFECTIONS ON THINGS ABOVE, NOT ON THINGS ON THE EARTH.

We ourselves are neutral ground. One or the other, Christ or sin, will reign in us. It is a matter of dominion. To which do we yield ourselves to obey?

If we love someone, it is easy to restrain a selfish desire which conflicts with that love. All selfish desires conflict with love for Christ. If we are one with Him in faith, it is possible for us to die to them even as He did. Then the logical sequence is: we can rise to walk with Him in newness of life.

Elroy Robinson.....Jewett, Ill.

- THE DISPENSATION OF GOD -

DISPENSATION is the translation of OIKONOMIA, from OIKOS (house) and NOMOS (law). In Luke 16:2,3,4 it is "stewardship"; it is "dispensation" in I Cor. 9:17; Eph. 1:10; 3:2,9; Col. 1:25. In I Tim. 1:4 "godly edifying" should be "a dispensation of God" as in the ASV. The rule or management of a household is the idea conveyed. We find the word "household" OIKEIOI in Eph. 2:19 and Gal. 6:10.

A consideration of Col. 1:25 and Eph. 3:2 in their contexts demonstrates that to the apostle Paul was revealed a body of truth for THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD in this present time. It is known as THE MYSTERY AMONG THE GENTILES. In the past Israel were under a law economy which offered them a position, the attainment of which would enable them to minister to the nations. Under the Old Covenant Israel failed! Israel's place has not been forfeited to the Gentiles. God revealed a previously hidden truth, THE MYSTERY for you Gentiles, with blessings and identification with Christ IN THE HEAVENLIES. It is here that we are introduced to Christ as the HEAD Who controls by His Spirit in the Body. The members of the Body prove their calling by walking worthy. They have been delivered from the authority of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Son of God's love.

There is no suggestion in Scripture that THE WORLD is under the dispensation of God, His grace. It is true that grace is offered to those "under sin", but not until grace is received is it reckoned in the life of the individual. Grace is not license. Grace is a disciplinary factor. Tit. 2:12. When appreciated, the dispensation of the grace of God revealed to Paul will raise life to a level in harmony with the will of God. We will respond to the control of the ONE SPIRIT in the ONE BODY and be careful not to grieve Him. The walk of the members of the Body should testify to submission to the will of the Head. May we respond.

Garrett Hazenkamp..Grand Rapids, Mich.

-FIXATION OF CHARACTER-

A person's character is pretty well fixed by the time he is 10 years old. Some orphanages do not take children after they are 10 for that very reason. They prefer to get them while under 8 if at all possible.

If one has not received Christ while young, each passing year adds to the chance that he will never do so. Most people who have had a radical change in later life have had Christian influence while children. It is very rare for a person who has had no Christian influence in childhood to make a decision later for Christ. His character has become fixed.

God delivered Israel from Egypt with a strong arm. He talked with them at Sinai. He led them thru the wilderness to the very edge of the promised land. But the influence of the training in Egypt was not easily shaken off. Idolatry and unbelief had a firm hold. At the very threshold of the land, they rebelled in unbelief and would not enter. They had to learn a bitter lesson. They had to perish in the wilderness. But there they taught their children so that after 39 years they were able to enter and take the land.

Such examples of fixation of character can be multiplied from the Word of God. If you are unsaved, or if you have rejected any of God's truth as revealed in His Word, each passing day adds to your peril. It is wise to seek Him now while He may be found. It is wise to receive all truth now while it is offered.

After a hardening process has finally set in, there is little that can break it. An example is found in Rev. 16. No amount of suffering and torment can change men who refuse to accept salvation. They may gnaw their tongues in pain, but they still will blaspheme the God of heaven. They may suffer all kinds of plagues, but yet they will not repent of their deeds. They will either lapse into blind remorse or fly into impatient rage. They do not change. Their characters are fixed.

-FAKE SALVATION-

Since Satan wills that none should be saved, he is ready and willing to put the consciences of his victims at rest by offering a substitute for salvation. He is able to do this because the natural man does not have any place in his life for the Word of God. Even those who PROFESS Christianity seldom know anything of the Word. In many of the so-called revivals we find much emotionalism, but little of the truth. Men and women, and children especially, are scared by lurid tales and experiences. Under the influence of mass psychology they are herded down to a confessional or altar, as they call it, and after a great deal of confusion they are expected to have an experience called salvation.

In very few instances is the seeker after Christ given any of the Word of God upon which to base his faith. Faith is believing what God has said and ordering the affairs of life to conform to it. But here the seeker has nothing to believe except what man has said. He has nothing in which to put his faith except an emotional upheaval. Sometimes that may go to such an extent that he may jabber a long string of unintelligible stuff that some claim to be "tongues."

Now this emotional froth is all the evidence this seeker has that he is saved. All his life he looks back to the time and place where this happened and builds all his hopes upon it. Poor dupe of Satan! He is just as lost as he ever was.

Faith needs no evidence. It believes the Word. When the Word is received in the heart and believed, then God implants in that person a new nature or spirit. It is then that the Holy Spirit can witness to the new nature or spirit that he is a son of God.

Do not think for a moment that I would do away with all emotional expression. I would not suppress the joy and happiness that come from a knowledge of real salvation. But let us beware of giving anybody the idea that an emotional upheaval is salvation.

-THE EDITOR'S DESK-

TRUTH FOR TODAY Radio Bible Class each Tue. nite at 7 over station WRSW (Warsaw) FM. 107.3.

TRUTH FOR TODAY Bible Class at my home each Tue. nite at 7:45. Drive over after listening to the broadcast. U R welcome.

TRUTH FOR TODAY monthly paper, no charge or subscription price. Send in the names of friends that might be interested.

Multitudes who have been saved by faith have never learned to walk by faith.

Am out of Companion Bibles, but more are on the way. They are \$10.50 plus 30¢ postage.

If I can take the word of those present for it, the conference Nov. 16-18 was a success. Mr. Hazekamp and Mr. Robinson were the speakers at the open meeting at Bremen. I had them condense their sermons and you will find them elsewhere in this paper. We are looking forward to another conference in the spring. This spiritual fellowship with others of like faith is very stimulating and encouraging.

Had most of the lane covered with a new coat of gravel, 68 yds. of it, to be exact. But now it is covered with snow drifts.

The corn we did not get in is under a nice blanket of snow. The variation of temperatures was over 80 degrees during Nov. Yet they call this the temperate zone!

The barn is crowded during this

cold weather. There are 19 head of cattle and 8 kids. The kids are going to take a trip to the frozen locker plant some of these days.

The Bremen Fellowship meets each Sunday at 10 AM at the town hall. Mr. A. O. Bowser is the teacher.

Receipts for Oct.; A82 (Cal.) \$10., A83 (Mich.) \$3., A84 (Ind.) \$9.95, A85 (Mich.) \$1., A86 (Ill.) \$10., A87 (Ind.) \$5., A88 (Ind.) \$2., A89 (Ill.) \$2., A90 (Ind.) \$1 A91 (Mich.) \$4.15. Total receipts, \$48.10. Total expenses, \$41.64. You have lightened the load a great deal. Thanks a lot.

Wise men still seek HIM.

Was substitute teacher in Atwood H S Nov. 20 and 27; English & Music.

Now is the time to subscribe or renew for the Berean Expositor. I can take care of them for you. It is 85¢ per year.

Wise men give gifts to Christ; not to each other.

I still have a stock of publications by C. H. Welch. See last issue for list and prices.

Do you have any prayer requests? Do you have children in college or living away from home that would like to get this paper? Let me know about these things.

If a person refuses food, he is either dead or mighty sick. Are you refusing spiritual food, the Word of God?

Am still waiting for letters from some of you. Do it now.

--OSCAR M. BAKER.

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