

# Our New Covenant - Part 1

## Key Verse:

*Galatians 5:6 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.*

## Exploring the Bible

### I. Covenant

#### A. Covenant in Stone vs. Law written on the Heart

*Exodus 32:15-16 - Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written. The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.*

Question: What does Moses carry down from the mountain?

Answer:

Question: Who had written on the tablets?

Answer:

Read *Hebrews 8:7-12*

Question: Where is the law going to be written under the new covenant?

Answer:

Question: Did the people remain faithful under the old covenant?

Answer:

The cold stone tablets are symbolic of the hearts of stone that received the tablets of law. External laws cannot bring inward change to hearts of stone. These stone tablets can only serve as a standard of what God expects. Only an inward transformation, the law written on our hearts, can produce within us the necessary change. It is not the law of the 10 commandments that God writes on our hearts but the law of love.

#### B. Circumcision of the Flesh vs. Circumcision of the Heart

Read *Genesis 17:9-14*

Question: What was the sign of God's covenant with Abraham?

Answer:

Question: What happened if a male was not circumcised?

Answer:

*Leviticus 12:3 - And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.*

Question: What is supposed to be done on the eighth day of boys' birth?

Answer:

*Romans 2:27-29 - Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.*

Question: What kind of circumcision counts in God's eyes?

Answer:

God gave the outward sign of circumcision to Abraham when He established the covenant with him. But God knew that no physical operation on the body was going to transform the heart. Eventually, circumcision of the heart was necessary. This is what we receive when we are born again, and because of this spiritual act of circumcision, we truly enter into the covenant of Abraham, becoming heirs of all the blessings he and his offspring were promised.

### **C. Baptized into Moses vs. Baptized into Christ**

*1 Corinthians 10:1-2 - For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,*

Question: Who were these people baptized into?

Answer:

*Romans 6:1-4 - What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

Question: When we were baptized into Christ, what were you baptized into?

Answer:

Question: (v4) What is the result of this baptism?

Answer:

*Galatians 3:26-27 - for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

Question: What kind of clothing did you get from being baptized into Christ?

Answer:

When the children of Israel left Egypt and passed through the Red Sea, they were baptized into Moses. But it didn't do anything for them because it was an outward baptism only. There was no inward change. Jesus Christ had not yet come, and the cross had not yet happened. After the cross, we go through a spiritual act of baptism when we are born again. While you may not feel anything, a great spiritual act is taking place at the moment of your new birth. It is in this act of baptism in the spiritual realm that makes you dead to sin and alive unto God. It is that spiritual act that allows you to live a life that is free from sin.

## II. Sacrifice

### A. Continual Sacrifice of Animals vs. One Sacrifice for All by Jesus Christ

*Hebrews 10:11 - And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.*

Question: How often did the Old Testament priests perform their religious duties?

Answer:

*Hebrews 10:1-3 - For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshippers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.*

Question: Were the worshippers who brought their sacrifices made perfect by them?

Answer:

*Hebrews 10:10 - And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

Question: The sacrifice of the body of Jesus was done how often?

Answer:

*Hebrews 9:11-12 - But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.*

Question: How often did Jesus enter the most Holy Place in heaven?

Answer:

Question: By whose blood did Jesus enter the most Holy Place in Heaven?

Answer:

Take some time to read Leviticus chapters 1 through 7. You will see the variety and amount of animals that had to be sacrificed for various offerings. It was a bloody, smelly mess to worship God under the Old Covenant. These rituals of sacrifice were carried out daily, monthly, yearly, and whenever it was needed or desired.

## **B. Sins covered vs Sins Cleansed**

*Isaiah 1:18 - Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.*

Question: What color can sin be made?

Answer:

Notice that the sins here don't go away. They just change color. That is all that could happen under the Old Testament.

*Hebrews 10:4 - For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*

Question: What is impossible for the blood of animals to take away?

Answer:

*Hebrews 10:11 - And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.*

Question: What was the problem with the sacrifices offered by the Old Testament priests?

Answer:

*John 1:12 - But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*

Question: What is the Lamb of God going to do with sin?

Answer:

ALL sin for ALL people for ALL time was TAKEN AWAY at the cross. Yes, that means that the sins of someone like Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, or any other wicked person or group of people we can think of, have all been taken away at the cross. This is why ANYONE who turns to Jesus Christ can be saved regardless of what he or she has done.

### **Practical Exercise:**

Is there anyone in your life whom you have considered un-savable because of all of their sin and wickedness? If so, how do you feel about them now?