

The Last Words of Jesus: **The New Covenant Continued...**

- * We saw from the words Jesus spoke during the Passover meal with His disciples that He was explaining how He was instituting a New Covenant with them and ultimately all of the world!
- * Jesus often made the strange statement that He never intended to “do away with or destroy” the Old Covenant!
- * Rather, His words were that He came to FULFILL IT!
- * Strange words indeed until you realize the elements of the Old Covenant!
 1. God will make you His “special treasure!”
 2. You will be a “kingdom of priest” with access to God!”
 3. You will be Holy and “set apart” for God!
 4. God will be your “protector and defender!”
 5. God promises to be “merciful and forgiving!”
- * THAT was the elements of the Old Covenant!! Pretty good if you ask me!
The reason we think the Old Covenant was so bad is that the way the Covenant was ratified or kept in force was an impossibility for us!
We simply do not have the ability to keep our side of the covenant!
- * Enter Jesus Christ...The Perfect One...in our place...God in flesh!
- * It’s all about God and His desire to be with His creation...Man!

Hebrews 7:18-19 (NIV)

18 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless 19 (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

- I. It is amazing to me how many in the Church today try to live a Christian life based upon a mixture of the Old and New Covenants!
 - A. We fully accept the salvation that Jesus provides but somehow believe that part of the reality of this salvation depends upon us!

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s

handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

1. It could not possibly be more crystal clear!
2. NOT from ourselves...
3. NOT of works...
4. We are created in Christ Jesus...THEN works come!

B. This New Covenant is so much greater than we can even comprehend!! It's called a mystery!

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV)

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

1. Jesus strengthens us with the power of the Holy Spirit to live out our faith!
2. Paul explains that this “work of The Spirit” is so awesome it's hard to grasp!
3. It is the “work and love of Christ” that fills us with God's fullness!
4. Paul ends this thought by saying, “There is no way that on your own you can grasp what and how the Lord has worked in our lives!”
5. Verse 19 says this in different translations:

Ephesians 3:19 (NLV)

19 I pray that you will know the love of Christ. His love goes beyond anything we can understand. I pray that you will be filled with God Himself.

Ephesians 3:19 (NLT)

19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Ephesians 3:19 (Phillips)

19 May you be filled though all your being with God himself!

C. THIS is the New Covenant and it is ALL based upon Jesus!

II. The Cross and Resurrection changed everything! By this work of Christ
This New Covenant is in force by Him and His work, not us!

A. We see this principal all throughout the scriptures if we pay attention!

Colossians 2:20-23 (NLT)

20 You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, 21 “Don’t handle! Don’t taste! Don’t touch!” 22 Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. 23 These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person’s evil desires.

1. Can you imagine the difficulty people had with this letter?
2. The entire Old Covenant rested upon people doing just that!
3. Keeping the requirements of the Law!
4. So, enjoy your “shrimp cocktail”- which was forbidden under the Law that supported the Old Covenant as you have your Bible studies to discuss the New Covenant!

B. In the middle of an incredible dissertation on works and faith
the Apostle James makes an incredible statement:

James 2:8-10 (NIV)

8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

1. Can we please just admit...we don’t have the ability in us to always do what is right!
2. My New Covenant relationship with God is based upon the Father and Sons’ covenant. Not God and me!
3. “Flirting with Moses (the law) is cheating on Jesus!

III. It is an interesting statement made in scripture about Jesus sitting!!!

A. As we have previously seen and as many of you know, the book of Hebrews was written to explain to the Jews and others how Jesus Christ is Messiah and is the completed work of God

for full salvation!

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NIV)

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

1. Do you see that phrase at the end? "He sat down...."
2. What makes that little phrase so important is that the writer of Hebrews goes into great detail about the Tabernacle and Jewish Temple worship!
3. He explains how our faith is the fulfillment of Temple worship and all of its "types and shadows." Its metaphors! Examples!
4. When you study the Tabernacle and Temple from scripture you quickly see vivid detail and description of furnishings and rituals the High Priest would practice.
5. You never see a chair or place for the priest to sit!
6. Because the work of redemption was never finished!
7. It happened on the Day of Atonement each year and sacrifices in the Temple court happened daily!

Hebrews 10:11-14 (NIV)

11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. 14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

- B. It is done, its finished, God is through and there is nothing any of us can do to add to redemption or take anything away from it. We received it by grace through faith!