

The New Covenant for the Church is BETTER Than the Old Covenant of Law (pt 5)

Scripture Reading:

Galatians 2:20-3:3, 10-14



INTRODUCTION

- The purpose of Paul's letter to the Hebrew Christians was to encourage them to let go of the Mosaic Law Covenant, and embrace New Covenant for the Church. This New Covenant provided Eternal Life for daily Christian living instead of impotent, personal, self-effort



INTRODUCTION (continued)

- The purpose of Paul's letter to the Galatian churches was to encourage Gentile Christians to continue to live by the grace-provided Eternal Life, which Life came from the New Covenant for the Church. No longer were they to place themselves under the Mosaic legal system of self-effort.



The Gentile Christians Were Saved by Faith and Are to Live by Faith

The Gentiles were never under the Mosaic Law – Rom 2:14, 4:15

The Gentiles (and everyone), are saved by faith, not by (law) works – Eph 2:8-4

The Gentiles who believed the gospel received the Holy Spirit – Gal 3:2, cf Acts 10:44-47

The Gentile believers were to also mature by faith – Gal 3:3,11

If Gentiles placed themselves under the Law for daily living, they would: 1) have to continue to practice the whole Law – Gal 3:10, and 2) Not be living by faith – Gal 3:12, cf II Cor 5:17, Gal 5:16-17

Jewish Christians Were Saved by Faith and Are to Live by Faith, Not by the Law

The Jews now have a better covenant than the OT Law Covenant

- Guaranteed to provide a better high-priesthood
 - Uninterrupted by death – Heb 7:21, 23-24
 - Guaranteed to provide a complete salvation – Heb 7:25

This better covenant is activated by better promises – Heb 8:6

- A promise of a singular Seed (Christ)
- A promise of all nations being blessed by individuals from all nations being placed into Christ – Gen 22:1-18, Gal 3:27-28

This new covenant for the Church can cleanse the conscience of these *transitional* Jewish Christians from “dead (law) works” – Heb 9:12-15

Two Reasons Why Paul Mentions The New Covenant to Israel in The Letter to the Hebrew Christians

To show these Jewish Christians that their OT Scriptures foretold of a replacement covenant for the Mosaic Law covenant - Heb 8:7-8, 13

To give a second OT witness to the “taking away” of the Mosaic Law covenant



Two Reasons Why Paul Mentions The New Covenant to Israel in The Letter to the Hebrew Christians (continued)

The problem:

- the OT animal sacrifices could not
 - Cleanse the conscience (of dead law works)
 - Could not take away sin – Heb 10:1-4

The solution:

- 1st witness – Ps 40:6-8
- 2nd witness – Jer 31:31-34 summarized
 - God's provision of a human body for His Son in order to be the "once for all" consummating, final sacrifice for sin
 - cf Heb 10:5-10 (notice vs 9!)

The conclusion:

- Heb 10:18!

