

February 13, 2022
II Corinthians 3:1-6
"Spirit Not Letter"

Within the New Covenant, **Jeremiah 31:31-34**, there are aspects that will not be established until the Millennium which apply only to the nation Israel. However, the church, of which we are a part, shares in the **soteriological** aspect (the doctrine of salvation) that applies today to all who call upon the name of the Lord to be saved from their sins.

This **new covenant** was inaugurated by Christ sacrifice on the cross and is entered into by faith

Those who trust in Christ, live. Those who trust in the law, works, or letter die. The latter do not live because they have no divine enablement as do those who live by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus.

The false apostles were advocating salvation by works, rituals, and ceremonies. No one can be perfect enough to keep the whole Law. **Galatians 2:19-21** states, "For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing." (CSB)

Legalists go too far towards the Law. On the other hand the **antinomians** (those who are against the law) argue that salvation by grace abrogates the believer's obligation to the Law. Both are flawed/incorrect views. There is no discontinuity between the external Law written on stone and the internal one written on the heart. Both instruct believers to avoid offending God and others. Law on stone cannot save, but salvation by grace alone gives a new heart that loves the Law and longs to keep it, the grace of God provides forgiveness for every failure. See **Psalms 119:97**.

Application:

THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING! Do you remember that old adage? It is undeniable, if the pudding tastes great, then it was done well! If not, for example, if all you can taste is *SCORCHED*, there is no denying that it does not hit the mark. However, if everyone is raving about how delicious it is, well, the conclusion must be made that the end result was a success.

Likewise, does the preaching of the Word change lives? Are people showing a new side of themselves? Is that person who was always so, _____, you fill in the blank, now a changed godly person who resembles the old self in no way? What happened? The message and the messenger are being affirmed by the proof in the pudding! Changed lives demonstrate the power of God in the lives of the people. No one can deny this reality.

After the person has been given the Holy Spirit he/she can fully depend upon the Holy Spirit to guide them in their Christian lives. **Romans 7:6; 8:4**, "But now we have been released from the law, since we have died to what held us, so that we may serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the old letter of the law." (CSB)

Romans 8:3-4, "For what the law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering, in order that the law's requirement would be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." (CSB)

HOMEWORK:

Meditate on **Romans 8:1-11**.