

New Covenant - the Shadow and Reality - Part 2

by Zac Poonen

The sermon emphasizes the importance of having a personal, intimate relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and warns against being misled by old covenant teaching.

Duration: 10:25

Scripture: John 14:26, John 15:15, Romans 15:5, Galatians 2:18-20, Colossians 1:18

Topics: "New Covenant", "Jesus Christ"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of seeking a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, rather than merely seeking earthly blessings. It highlights the significance of understanding the New Covenant life and discerning teachings that align with it. The speaker encourages a focus on Jesus' life as the ultimate revelation of God and warns against being influenced by teachings that promote an old covenant mindset.

Transcript

So, if you don't get revelation from God when you read the New Testament, if God doesn't open your eyes to show you the wonderful life you can live personally and in your home and church and live a life of triumph, you can pretty much attribute it to your inflated mind, your high thoughts about yourself. You see, God doesn't fellowship with proud people. And if God doesn't fellowship with you, he won't tell you anything.

I mean, he's merciful to everybody. He forgives a lot of people. But he doesn't fellowship with everyone.

Jesus healed a lot of sick people, but he fellowshiped with only 11. Remember that. It's a very, very small number.

He blessed thousands, but he fellowshiped with 11. And I'll tell you, if you gave me a choice, do you want to be among the thousands whom God blesses or among the few whom he fellowshiped with? I'd say I'd choose the one he fellowshiped with. Because what is earthly blessing compared to the fellowship of God? If you value earthly blessing more than the fellowship of God, well, that's what you'll get, earthly blessing.

But if you say, Lord, I want fellowship with you more than any earthly blessing, God will give you that. Seek and you shall find. You get what you seek for.

So when you're, you know, inflated by your fleshly mind, you don't see these things. And then you're not able, in verse 19, to hold fast to the head, which is Christ. The whole purpose of the New Covenant is to bring us into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, like a head and a body.

It's such an intimate, inward relationship that, you know, makes life so effortless. And you see my hand moving. There's no strain.

There's no noise. It's just obedient to the head. That's the type of relationship Jesus wants to have with you.

And that's only possible if you understand this New Covenant life. And that's why it's so important. That's why it's very important to be very discerning in these days in which we live, concerning the books we read, the sermons you hear, the preachers you hear on television and everywhere.

Believe me, they're all teaching an old covenant life. Tell me if you ever hear one of these preachers telling you how to overcome the love of money. I never heard.

Or how to overcome anger or depression or gloom. These are the things that bother many Christians. It's not gambling and drinking.

Those things are... Even non-Christians don't... Many good non-Christians don't do those things. It's these things. And we have no message of hope to the non-Christians if you tell them, Christ forgives your sins, but sorry, He doesn't deliver us from anger or love of money or depression or gloom or yelling and fighting at home.

He doesn't help us in these things. He just forgives our sins. They say, what type of Christ is yours? I don't want it.

I'd rather have my God. It's much better than no different from yours. And when you pray, you're not sure whether Jesus answers.

Will He answer or not? You pray and you know, well, maybe He'll answer. It's like a lottery. You know, you buy a ticket and you don't know whether you'll win the prize or not.

A lot of Christians who pray, well, they don't know. Maybe I'll get it. I hope I get it.

I'm not sure whether I'll get it. Well, that's exactly how the non-Christian prays to idols. I pray, I hope I'll get something.

If I get something, I'll say, ah, the idol did it. If I don't get it, well, maybe it's not God's will. Don't you think that's the way a lot of Christians pray? Yeah.

Okay, I didn't get it. They never take the blame themselves and say, maybe I didn't pray through. Maybe I didn't trust God enough.

No, no, no, no, no. They'll never. From the days of Adam, do you think man will blame himself? No.

He'll blame God. He'll say, this woman whom you gave me, when he doesn't get an answer to prayer, he'll never think of saying, it's my fault. I didn't pray enough.

I didn't pray through. I didn't trust God enough. No, no, no, no, no.

It's God's fault. It's not God's will. What a holy thing to say.

Which means, of course I'm a very holy, wholehearted man. It's not God's will. You know, that's the way you miss 101 things in life.

Don't let the devil fool you. Don't let the devil rob you of things God wants you to have. And you'll have it if you stop blaming God and start, you know, taking the blame a little bit yourself.

You know, when we say, Lord, I see myself. God will send the fire. It says when Isaiah was, you know, finding fault with other people, rightly, Isaiah chapter 5, nothing happened, but the day when he said, Lord, I'm the one who has a problem, Isaiah chapter 6, it says the fire from God came and touched his mouth and cleansed him.

It's a wonderful thing to live a life where you look at Jesus. You don't see anybody else. You're not comparing yourself with them, thinking you're better than them, or thinking that you're worse than them and getting depressed.

You're looking at Jesus where you'll never be discouraged. He's a great encourager. The word comforter means encourager also.

And when Jesus was going up to heaven, he said, I'll send you another comforter, another encourager. That's why I don't believe the Holy Spirit ever discourages anybody. God is not a God of discouragement.

You won't see such a title anywhere in the Bible. He's called in Romans 15 the God of all encouragement. If you hear a message that discourages you, either the preacher didn't know the right God, or you received it in the wrong way.

One of the two. God is a God of all encouragement. And that's why we need to know him in this way in the New Testament through Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, if you've seen me, you've seen the Father. If you want to know what God is like, look carefully at the earthly life of Jesus Christ. Study it.

Spend time studying the earthly life of Jesus. That's the only revelation this world has ever got of what God is like. There is no other revelation of God.

He's the only one. And that's why I spent years studying just the earthly life of Jesus Christ because I want to know what God is like. He who has seen me has seen the Father, Jesus said.

And I know what God is like because I've seen Jesus in the scriptures. So, it's very important, you know, because a lot of books and songs that we sing affect our minds. Particularly songs that we sing again and again and again and again affect our mind.

Now, I'll tell you quite honestly, I have a confession to make, that there are certain songs we sing where I don't sing it according to the words on the screen. Now, I'm not asking you to do it if you don't have light on it. I have light on it.

That's why, for example, when you say, these are the days of Moses, I say, these are the days of Jesus. That's what I sing. Because to me, the days of Moses are over 2,000 years ago.

But the man who wrote that song didn't have that light. I'm just giving you an example. These are the days of Elijah.

I say, these are the days of Jesus. These are the days of Ezekiel. I say, these are the days of Jesus.

I'm determined to brainwash my mind to the truth when the whole of Christendom is trying to brainwash my mind to the old covenant. Or the other song we sing, to God be the glory, there's one verse, the original says, the vilest offender who truly believes that moment from Jesus a pardon receives, it's not true. Nobody receives a pardon by only believing.

That is the falsehood being preached by preachers today. I'll tell you how I sing it. The vilest offender who truly repents.

So, we have to believe, but we've got to repent. The message that is missing in Christendom today. I'm just giving you a few examples.

I could name a hundred songs and books like that that have led people back into the old covenant. And I can't change other people, but I'm determined that I will never go back under the old covenant where Jesus buried when he died and went into the grave. The Bible says in Galatians 2 that the man who builds again what God has destroyed, he's a sinner.

Let me show you that in Galatians in chapter 2. Then you'll see how serious it is. Galatians chapter 2 verse 18. If I rebuild what I have once destroyed or what Christ has destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor.

What did I destroy? The law, verse 19. Through the law, I died to the law. So now I live to God.

I died to that entire old covenant so that I might live to God. And I've been crucified with Christ, verse 20, to that old covenant. It's finished.

I'm not living in the days of Ezekiel or Moses or Elijah. God bless those wonderful men. I'm living in the days of Jesus.

I'm living in the days of the Holy Spirit. I'm not living in the days of David. I've finished with them.

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