

The New Covenant - Part 2

Forgiveness of sin/Power of sin broken/walk in newness of life

1. A brief recap from our last meeting.

- a) We talked about the contrast between The Old Covenant and The New Covenant. Sin conscious vs. God conscious, Law vs. relationship. Old Covenant Mind set vs. New Covenant mind set.
- b) We also talked about not mixing covenants when studying scripture and when walking out the Christian life in relationship with Christ in the New Covenant and not mixing mind sets law vs. grace.
- c) We also talked about how Christ took our punishment.

2. Old and New Covenant Mindsets (Let's go into this a little deeper)

- a) Last study we talked about Old Covenant Mind set vs. New Covenant mind set. Law vs. relationship. Notice the definition of the two mind sets:
 - Old Covenant mind set: {Sin conscious} [keeping the law]
Guilt, condemnation, shame, fear > Right where Satan wants us to stay.
 - New Covenant mind set: {God conscious} [walking in newness of life]
Abundant life, joy, peace, right with God > Right where God wants us to stay.
- b) I want to dig a little deeper with some good examples of Old Covenant thinking while living in the New Covenant as a believer.
- c) Let's read through **Phil. 2:12-13 (KJV, AMPC)**. Let's note the contrast between **v. 12 & 13**. A good summation/paraphrase of these two verses together would be:
"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (a positive reverential awe and serious humility before God), but be encourage, for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."
 - So, this should be encouraging because you're not on your own with working out your salvation with fear and trembling because God is working in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." This gives me hope that I am not alone in this relationship with Christ.
- d) Letting the Holy Spirit produce His good fruit in us (Gal. 5:22–23 NLT) is key to working out our salvation. We must be careful not to turn verse 12 into works-based salvation. Yet there is real intentionality on our part as we work out—and work on—our relationship with Christ. Scripture tells us to do many things: put off the old, put on the new, lay aside every weight, set our hearts and minds on things above, seek first the Kingdom of God, fix our gaze on Jesus, be steadfast, stand firm in the faith, add to our faith, and exercise our faith. All of this "working out and working on" flows from intentional cooperation with the Spirit—abiding in Christ and working out our relationship through humility, surrender, reverence, and awe.

I'll be diving much deeper into this "intentionality" in future studies.

- "Work out" = bring to expression what God has already worked in through the new birth, not "work for" what you do not yet have.
 - "Fear and trembling" = reverent awareness of God's holiness and our dependence, not dread of punishment for those in Christ, especially when read with **1 Jn. 4:18** ("perfect love casts out fear").
- e) "Working out" salvation is best understood as faith-filled participation in what God is already doing:
- It is yielding to the Spirit rather than self-striving.
 - It is abiding in the Vine (John 15) rather than independent achieving.
 - It is cooperation with the Holy Spirit rather than fleshly effort.
- f) Old Covenant mind set: Fear of punishment from God. Carnally minded.
New Covenant mind set: Life and peace. Spiritually minded. It's about what He did for us, not what we do for Him. God's wrath was poured out on Jesus. **Isa. 53**.
Rom. 8:5-6 (NKJV) is a perfect example of these two mind sets. "*Carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*"
- What are you setting your mind and thoughts on? Fix your mind (thoughts) on these things: **Phil. 4:8**.
 - Raised to new life with Christ. Set your mind on things above **Col. 3:1-3 (AMPC)**.

3. The New Covenant (Let's see how wonderful it is)

- Let's start with Old Covenant prophecies that spoke of a New Covenant that was coming.
 - A new heart and a new spirit. **Jer. 31:31-34**
 - The law put within us and written on our hearts. A new teacher, the Holy Spirit and right relationship with God. **Ezek. 36:26**
 - His life made an offering for sin. What Christ did on the cross for us. **Isa. 53**
 - The Holy Spirit, the comforter will teach all things and guide us into all truth.
- Jn. 14:15-20, 26-27; 16:5-15.** Again, this is still old covenant when Jesus was teaching this. He was talking about the new covenant that was coming. The **Holy Spirit** is an important part of the New Covenant. There is no "in Christ" without the **Holy Spirit**.
- Let's dive into the New Covenant: **Heb. 4:14-16, 6:16-7:28, 8:6-8,13, 9:11-15, 20-28, 10:1-18; 1 Cor. 11:23-25; 2 Cor. 3:7-18; 1 Ptr. 3:18.**
 - ...back to **2 Cor. 3**. We are to be ministers of the New Covenant. **2 Cor. 3:4-6**.
 - God's free gift leads to our being made right with God. This free gift is forgiveness to many through Jesus Christ. **Rom. 5:8-21**.

4. Benefits of the New Covenant (Free from the power of sin)

- We who believe in Him are united with Him in His death and are raised to new Life with Him. Dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Jesus Christ. Sin is no longer your

master. Believers no longer live under the requirements of the law. Now you live under the freedom of God's grace. **Rom. 6:1-18 (NKJV)**.

- b) (Died once to sin. We did not die to sinning, we died to sin nature and now have a New nature in Christ) – Our Spirit is complete, our body and soul (mind) need to be renewed. **Rom. 12:2**. Our spirit does not need renewing, but our body and soul does. We still have "flesh" to deal with but we (believers), no longer have a sinful nature.
- c) We who believe in Christ are no longer a slave to sin, no longer prisoner to sin, no longer locked up under the control of sin. We have died to our old life, no longer living for ourselves but for Christ **2 Cor. 5:14-15**. This is the benefit of the New Covenant, this new way of faith.
- d) Prior to salvation, we are locked under sin, slaves to sin and prisoners of sin. Only then are we set free! We are set completely free into new life when we believe in Him.
- e) We receive God's promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ. **Gal. 3:21-22**.
- f) Other translations of "prisoners of sin" in **Gal. 3:21-22**.
(NIV, TLV) – Locked up under the control of sin.
 - a. (AMP) – Imprisoned everyone [everything—the entire world] under sin.
 - b. (NASB) – Shut up under sin. (TPT) – Under the power of sin.
 - c. (NKJV) – Confined under sin. (KJV) – Under sin.
 - d. (MSG) – Out of right relationship with God.
- g) Died to old life, new life has begun, walk in newness of life. **2 Cor. 5:14-21**.
- h) Died to the power of the law, new way of living in the Spirit. **Rom. 7:4-6**.
- i) Died to the law, old self crucified, no longer I live but Christ lives in me. **Gal. 2:16-21**.
- j) Before faith in Christ, you were dead, in prison and a slave to sin. After faith in Christ, we have new life and are a slave to righteous living! Free from the power of sin!
- k) **This is the good news of the Gospel:** The New Covenant provides a new way of faith **Gal. 3:23-25 NLT** and now those who believe have full and complete access to His presence by the blood of Christ. (**Heb. 10:19-23 AMPC**).

To be continued.... next meeting we will dive into Jesus Christ being our High Priest and perfect sacrifice and what that actually means.

Homework:

Melchizedek Is Greater Than Abraham / Jesus Is like Melchizedek

Full context: **Heb. 5:1-10** and All of **Heb. chapter 7**

Christ Is Our High Priest

Full context: All of Heb. Chapters 4-8

Christ Took Our Punishment

Full context: Rom. 3:21-26

Christ Is the Perfect Sacrifice

Full context: Heb. 9:11-28

The Glory of the New Covenant

Full context: 2 Cor. 3:7-18

Christ's Sacrifice Once for All

Full context: Heb. 10:1-18

Sin's Power Is Broken

Full context: All of Rom. chapter 6

The work of the Holy Spirit and our union with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Read all of John chapters 14 – 17.

Believers are now: Dead to Sin, Alive to God / From Slaves of Sin to Slaves of Righteousness

Full Context: All of **Rom. chapter 6** (NKJV)

“Finding Treasure in the Word” RiverLife Fellowship Life Link – Meeting 3 - 5/17/22

All studies with full notes in PDF format are available here:

<https://christinyoustudymap.com/finding-treasure-in-the-word-bible-studies/>

↓----below study material for outside of the group meeting----↓

Deeper study

Commentary on Galatians 3:21–22 (NLT) – (pulled from several commentaries)

“21 Is there a conflict, then, between God’s law and God’s promises? Absolutely not! If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it. **22** But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin, so we receive God’s promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.”

This brief passage is one of the sharpest distillations in Paul’s letters of the radical shift from the Old Covenant (centered on the Law) to the New Covenant (centered on faith in Christ). Paul is defending the gospel of grace against those who insisted that Gentile believers must also keep the Mosaic Law to be fully right with God. The “stark difference” you identified—Law versus salvation by grace through faith—is exactly what Paul is driving home.

1. No Conflict Between Law and Promise (v. 21a)

Paul begins with a rhetorical question that anticipates an objection: *If the promises to Abraham are fulfilled in Christ (as Paul has argued in vv. 16–19), does that mean the Law given later through Moses is opposed to those promises?*

His answer is emphatic: **“Absolutely not!”** (Greek: *mē genoito*, a strong Pauline idiom meaning “May it never be!”). The Law and the promise are not enemies; they serve different purposes in God’s single redemptive plan.

2. The Purpose and Limitation of the Law (v. 21b)

Paul states a counterfactual: **“If the law could give us new life, we could be made right with God by obeying it.”**

- “Give us new life” (Greek: *zoōpoieō*) means impart spiritual vitality, regeneration, the power to live in true righteousness.
- “Made right with God” is Paul’s key term *dikaiōsis* (justification)—being declared righteous in God’s sight.

Paul’s point is that the Law was **never designed** to do either of these things. It cannot impart life or justify. If it could, then righteousness would indeed come by works of the Law. But it cannot, so righteousness cannot come that way.

This directly undermines the Judaizers’ claim that circumcision and Law-keeping are necessary for full acceptance by God. The Law is good and holy (Rom 7:12), but it is not salvific.

3. Universal Imprisonment Under Sin (v. 22a)

“But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin...”

Paul appeals to the Old Testament itself (especially Ps 143:2; Deut 27:26; cf. Gal 3:10) to show that the Law's actual effect is to reveal and confine humanity under sin.

- The verb “shut up” or “imprison” (Greek: *synkleiō*) pictures the Law as a jailer that locks everyone in the prison of sin (cf. Gal 3:23; Rom 3:19; 11:32).
- “We are **all** prisoners” — Jew and Gentile alike, with no exceptions. No one escapes the verdict of guilt by their own performance.

The Law, rather than being the solution, functions as a diagnostic tool: it exposes the disease (sin) but does not cure it. It increases awareness of trespass (Rom 5:20; 7:7–13) and thereby heightens the need for rescue.

4. The Promise Received by Faith Alone (v. 22b)

“...so that we receive God’s promise of freedom only by believing in Jesus Christ.”

Here is the heart of the New Covenant contrast:

- The “promise” is the blessing originally given to Abraham (justification by faith, the Spirit, inheritance as sons; Gal 3:14, 16–18).
- It is received **only** (Greek: *ek pisteōs*, “out of faith”) by believing in Jesus Christ.
- The result is **freedom**—release from the prison of sin and the curse of the Law (Gal 3:13; 4:5; 5:1).

Stark Contrast Summarized

Aspect	Old Covenant (Law)	New Covenant (Grace through Faith)
Means	Obedience to commandments	Believing in Jesus Christ
Power	Reveals sin, condemns, imprisons	Imparts life, justifies, liberates
Result for sinner	Conviction of guilt; no one is justified (v. 11)	Declaration of righteousness; freedom from sin
Role in God’s plan	Temporary guardian until Christ (3:24–25)	Permanent fulfillment of the promise to Abraham
Who receives blessing	Only hypothetical perfect keepers (impossible)	All who believe, Jew and Gentile alike

Paul is not disparaging the Law; he is clarifying its subordinate and preparatory role. The Law drives us to despair of self-effort and to cling to Christ alone. The Old Covenant says, “Do this and live,” but no one does. The New Covenant says, “Believe in the One who did this perfectly in your place, and you will live.”

This passage, therefore, stands as one of the clearest biblical affirmations that justification is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone—apart from works of the Law.

Double bonus deep-dive into Philippians 2:12–13

Reference Notes: Philippians 2:12–13 and “Working Out” Salvation in New Covenant Context

1. The Built-In Tension in Philippians 2:12–13

Philippians 2:12–13 presents a balanced dynamic:

- “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” emphasizes intentionality, seriousness, and active response.
- “For it is God who works in you, both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (v. 13) grounds the entire process in God’s prior and empowering grace.

Key distinctions:

- “Work out” (Greek: *katergazomai*) means to bring to full expression or completion what God has already worked in through regeneration and the new birth—not “work for” salvation or rely on self-powered effort.
- The connecting word “for” (Greek: *gar*) shows that the believer’s response flows from God’s initiating and sustaining work.

When read alongside 1 John 4:18 (“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment”), the “fear and trembling” mentioned in Pil. 2:12 is not dread of punishment (which the cross has settled) but reverent awe before God’s holiness and complete dependence on His enabling power.

2. Healthy vs. Unhealthy Fear of the Lord

Scripture distinguishes two kinds of fear:

- Unhealthy fear: Expectation of punishment, anxiety about rejection, or humiliation. This produces hiding, pretense, and self-effort, aligning more with a law-based mindset. [Old Testament Mindset]

- Healthy fear: Reverent awe, deep seriousness about God's holiness, combined with trust in His goodness revealed in Christ. This draws the heart closer in humility and joyful dependence. [New Testament Mindset]

1 John 4:18 directly addresses the unhealthy side: fear involving torment (punishment) is incompatible with perfected love. At the cross, the punishment question is resolved, leaving a reverent awe that honors God's grace rather than treating it lightly.

3. Growth Trajectory: Fear → Humility → Delight

A progression in relating to God can be observed in Scripture:

1. Fear (initial stage) Many begin with fear centered on pain or punishment. While this can be a starting point, the gospel moves believers beyond tormenting fear into confident love, since judgment was borne by Christ.
2. Humility (trusting God's goodness) True humility agrees with God's verdict on His holiness and the believer's identity in Christ. It produces relational freedom: repentance becomes approaching the Father confidently rather than cowering.
3. Delight (mature humility and surrender) Delight represents humility at its deepest: loving and yielding to God's will because it is seen as good, pleasing, and perfect. Supporting passages include Psalm 40:8 ("I delight to do Your will"), Psalm 1:2 (delighting in the law as fulfilled in Christ), Psalm 37:4, Luke 12:32 ("Your Father delights to give you the kingdom"), and Hebrews 12:2 (Jesus enduring "for the joy set before Him").

This trajectory aligns with New Covenant reality: unhealthy fear (torment) is cast out by perfect love, while the Spirit cultivates humility and delight as believers mature.

4. Abiding in Christ as the Essence of "Working Out"

"Working out" salvation is best understood as faith-filled participation in what God is already doing:

- It is yielding to the Spirit rather than self-striving.
- It is abiding in the Vine (John 15) rather than independent achieving.
- It is cooperation with the Holy Spirit rather than fleshly effort.

Supporting connections:

- Colossians 2–3, Romans 8:13, 2 Peter 1:5–7, and Galatians 5:22–23 show that growth (putting sin to death, bearing fruit, adding virtues) occurs "by the Spirit" and through abiding, not rule-keeping.
- The contrast remains clear: effort "by the flesh" produces religion; dependence "by the Spirit" produces relationship.

5. Summary Statement on Philippians 2:12–13

“Working out” salvation is intentional response to God’s inner work by His Spirit:

- A sober awareness that God Himself is present and active in the believer’s heart (“holy ground”).
- Paired with confidence that He is for us in Christ, not against us.
- Expressed through yielding, abiding, and cooperation—not gritting teeth or striving to earn acceptance.

Under the New Covenant, the remaining “fear” is reverent awe that leads to humility and delight, never a slavery-fear of punishment.