

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: Covenant: God's Way of Relationship



Teaching Sermon: "Jesus Christ: The Covenant of Consummation Part Two"
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As we close out 2020, a year of surprises, some great surprises, we also finish our series "Covenant: God's Way of Relationship."

The new covenant in Christ reflects **a new dimension** in God's redemptive working, the establishment of something superior accomplished by a superior Mediator.

The concept of newness implies a break with the past but does not imply that it stands in absolute contradiction to previous covenants. There is a continuity. For example, in the Mosaic covenant, the law was written on stone, but now it will be written on the heart. Sin was covered in the old, but now in the new, sin will be cleansed. Sin was passed over in the old, but not removed. In the new covenant the Blood of Jesus removes sin in the framework of God's just administration of the world. (1 John 1:9) David ruled over Israel, but Jesus will rule over all.

In the new covenant, **the actual replaces the typical.** (all of Hebrews) The new covenant is the real deal, the substance of the shadow, the once-for-all time accomplishment of something far-reaching and irrevocable. It is radical. It goes to the root. Persistent disobedience of the people intended to be blessed by God effectually rendered the promises of blessing null and void, but in the new covenant, the promises are "Yes" and "amen." The new covenant cannot fail to achieve God's intended goal of heaping redemptive blessing and restoration on its participants.

Besides a continuity as well as newness in the new covenant, we can also see a corporate aspect as well as an individual aspect in the new covenant. A one-to-one relationship of the spirit is a key factor in the new covenant, but individuality is not substituted for a corporate dimension. Personal faith-relationship is not in opposition to a corporate relationship. The new covenant is not just with individuals, but continues the corporate nature of the covenant community of God's people. (Jer. 31:31) Anyone professing the faith of Abraham, including Gentiles, could become a full-fledged Israelite. It is not an ethnic issue. It is a faith issue. (Romans 9-11) Old covenant Israel typified the elect people of God. Israel in the old covenant existed as a nation to represent the chosen of Yahweh just as the serpent of brass typified Christ cursed on the cross and the tabernacle typified the new covenant dwelling of God in the midst of His people.

The Israel of God are the unified people of God, Jew and Gentile, and all who are children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. Individuals enter the new covenant by faith, but in the corporate dimension, God works in covenant community. Thus in Jeremiah 32:39, the Lord promises that He will give Israel one heart and one way that they may fear Him forever, "for the good of them, and of their children after them." It extends to children, so that the promise is to you and to your children and to as many as God will call. (Acts 2:39) God works in households so that Paul could say that the children are sanctified because of the believer (1 Cor. 7:14).

Some like to think that because the law is written in the heart and all sins are forgiven that they can do whatever they want and it's okay. This twists the intent. In the new covenant inward transformation takes place, but we must recognize that the old covenant also expected a change of heart (Deut. 6:6; 11:18; 10:12, 16; 30:6, 14). The difference is that in the new covenant provision is made for the writing by God Himself of the law in the human heart. **Man is seen as unchangeable unless God grants the change.** The law is now in our midst rather than set before us. The power is not inherent in the law but is a benefit transferred to the law from the gospel. **To put it simply, only the finished work of Jesus Christ reconciles a sinner to God and effects an act of heart-renewal by the Holy Spirit.**

Oneness is established in the new covenant work of Jesus Christ as Mediator. This results in the immediate knowledge of God. From small to great, all will know the Lord immediately. The work of Christ as Mediator is so effective that no other mediator is necessary.

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 1 Timothy 2:5.

Salvation exists in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

No one stands between the believer and the Living God nor is there such a need. By the Blood of Jesus believers have bold access to the Father within the veil, without any gaps. Oneness with Jesus enables oneness with the Father. This is a depth of communion and fellowship with God way beyond the provisions of the old covenant.

Jesus Christ formally inaugurated the new covenant by the institution of the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:20). Every time we partake in communion we celebrate the present reality of the new covenant (1 Cor. 11:25). Thus believers pass from glory to glory (2 Cor. 3:18) and now have the law of God written in their hearts (2 Cor. 3:3, 6-8). The Holy Spirit bears witness to us concerning the forgiveness of sins and the once-for-all time cessation of offerings as promised in the new covenant (Hebrews 10:15-18). When all is said and done, every promise will find fulfillment and consummation in the new covenant.

In the new covenant we have reconciliation (overcoming alienation), the obedient work of sacrifice (overcoming guilt and liability and achieving pardon), redemption (overcoming bondage and slavery), propitiation (overcoming divine wrath), and destruction of the works of darkness (overcoming Satan and the kingdom of evil).

We have benefits with the covenant of grace. These include, with a sampling of scripture references:

1. Pity (mercy) – Lamentations 3, Psalm 103, Psalm 59:10
My God of mercy shall come to meet me; God shall let me see my desire on my enemies. (Psalm 59:10) In this Psalm of the assured judgment of the wicked, we see God appealed to as David's God of mercy. God is our Defense. As to how we should respond: *For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.* (James 2:13)
2. Protection – Psalm 91, Isaiah 41:10, Luke 10:19 *Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*
3. Power – Romans 6-8; Acts 1:8 *But you shall receive power when*

the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be ^[a]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

4. Provision – Genesis 22; Philippians 4:19 **And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

5. Preservation –, Psalm 121:7, Jeremiah 49:11; 1 Thess. 5:23 **Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify^[a] you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

6. Promises – Galatians 3, Ephesians 3:6, 1 Tim 4:8, Hebrews 9:15; 11:33; 1 John 2:25 **And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.**

7. Pursuit of God's enemies to their destruction – James 4.4, James 4.6, Galatians 5, 1 John 2.16; 1 John 3.8 **He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.**

8. Propitiation – Romans 3.25, 1 John 2.2 **And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.**

9. Portion – Psalm 16:5, 73:26, 119:57, Luke 12:32 **Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**

10. Prayer – Romans 8:26, 1 Cor. 14:15, 1 Timothy 2:8, James 5:13, 16, 1 Thess. 5:17, **pray without ceasing.**

11. Presence of the Holy Spirit – Luke 24:49, Psalm 139, Exodus 33, Psalm 16:11, Psalm 140:13; Hebrews 6:4, Acts 1:4, **Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city ^[a]of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.**

12. Prospering – Psalm 1, 1 Cor. 16:2, Nehemiah 2:20, Col. 3:16, 1 Timothy 6:17, **Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.**

13. Pardon – Psalm 103, Psalm 10:3, Jer. 18:23; 1 John 1:9, Acts 13:38, 26:28, Ephesians 1, all of Romans, Acts 5:31, **Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.**

14. Perfection (brought to completion) – 2 Cor. 13:9 **For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.**

15. Peace – Ephesians 2:14, 4:3; 2 Thess. 3:16; 2 Peter 3:14; John 14:27, **Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

16. Partaking – Romans 15:27, 1 Cor. 9:10, 10:21; 2 Cor. 1:7, Eph. 3:6, Col. 1:12, Phil. 1:7, Hebrews 3:1, 6:4, 5; 1 Peter 4:13, 2 Peter 1:3,4, **According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue:**

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Can you think of others? Try going through the alphabet and listing the multiple blessings that come to believers through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. This exercise will strengthen your spirit and increase your trust in the LORD. Guaranteed.

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“And to you and your descendants I will give the land of your sojourn--all the land of Canaan--as an eternal possession; and I will be their God.” Genesis 17:8

“And He told me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give freely from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.” Revelation 21:6, 7.

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