**What is the point or end-game for God giving the New Covenant?**

1. **First we need to see what are the great “truths” or teachings of the New Covenant.**
   1. **Jesus told Peter to “feed my sheep”**

***John 21:15-18***

*So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (agape) Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love (phileo) You.” He said to him, “Feed My lambs.”* ***16****He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (agape) Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love (phileo) You.” He said to him, “Tend My sheep.”* ***17****He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (phileo) Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love (phileo) Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (phileo)You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.*

* + - 1. “Feed” vs. 15, bosko , **Thayer Definition:** 1) to feed 1a) portraying the duty of a Christian teacher to promote in every way the spiritual welfare of the members of the church.
      2. “Tend” vs. 16 poimaino, **Thayer Definition:**
      3. 1) to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep 1a) to rule, govern,
      4. to furnish pasture for food, to nourish
      5. “Feed” vs. 17 bosko , Thayer Definition: 1) to feed 1a) portraying the duty of a Christian teacher to promote in every way the spiritual welfare of the members of the church.
      6. “Grieved” vs. 17 lupeō Thayer Definition: to make sorrowful, to affect with sadness, cause grief, to throw into sorrow
      7. In this instance I see Agape love as the “love” that is commanded, Peter do you love me because you are commanded to.
      8. Phileo is brotherly love, Peter do you love me as your brother.
      9. Peter’s job, (and all teachers of the New Covenant) is to feed, nourish, and care for the sheep.
  1. **As believers we are to come to a place of maturity and the ability to teach. What is it that we teach? The word of righteousness. The Old Covenant is the milk, the solid food is the teaching of the New Covenant (righteousness).**

***Hebrews 5:12-14***

*For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

**What are some of these New Covenant teachings of the word of righteousness that feed us?**

1. **Under the New, it is not about what we can do for God, but what He has done for us. Righteousness is ours by faith, not by keeping laws.**

***Galatians 2:16,21***

*Nevertheless, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified… 21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.”*

1. **The New Covenant is about the finished work of Christ (what He accomplished on the cross). What did Jesus finish? He finished the Old Covenant and everything needed to make “Man” right and acceptable to God under the New Covenant.**

***John 19:30***

*So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

1. **Sin is completely taken care of in the New. Not only will He not remember your sins, but he is merciful to your unrighteousness, the things in you and your personality that are not right.**

***Hebrews 8:12***

*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.*

***Romans 4:8***

*Blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” ESV*

1. **The New Covenant is the covenant of Grace.**

***Luke 4:18-19***

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”*

1. **Isaiah 61:2 “acceptable”** râtsôn BDB Definition: pleasure, delight, goodwill, favour, acceptance
2. **Grace is the undeserved, unearned pleasure/delight/favor/goodwill/acceptance/favor of God.**

***Ephesians 1:6***

*To the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*

* “Accepted” charitoō, to grace, that is, indue with special honor: - make accepted, be highly favoured. -Strongs

***Ephesians 1:7-8***

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us (which He lavished on us NASB).*

1. **This grace will be talked about for all eternity.**

***Ephesians 2:7 NASB***

*So that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

*“In order that He might exhibit for His own interest (glory) in the ages that will pile themselves upon one another in continuous succession, the surpassing wealth of His grace in kindness to us in Christ Jesus.” -Wuest Expanded Translation*

1. **You are the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21) by gift.**

***Romans 5:17***

*Much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

1. **You are the beloved of God.**

***1 John 4:16 16***

*And we have known and believed the love that God has for us.*

1. **Was Jesus’ sacrifice “good enough”?**

***Hebrews 10:1-2***

*For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?*

***Hebrews 10:14***

*For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.*

1. **When we feed on these truths, they produce rest.**

***Hebrews 4:3***

*For we who have believed do enter that rest.*

***Matthew 11:28-30***

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

***1 Corinthians 2:4****-6*

***A****nd my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. 6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;*

**So, what’s the point?**

1. **Stop living in sin consciousness! Get your eyes off yourself and your failings and set them on Jesus. You are accepted in the beloved. Rest in being right with God because of Jesus.**

[***2 Corinthians 3:18***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians+3:18&version=NKJV;NASB)

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

1. **Let God be your God and your Father**.

***Hebrews 8:10***

*I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

***Romans 8:15-16***

*For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” 16The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.*

[***Romans 9:26***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+9:26&version=NKJV;NASB)

*“And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You* are *not My people,’ There they shall be called sons of the living God.”*

1. **Because you are right with God, believe Him for great things without striving or begging.**

***Mark 9:23 NASB***

*But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!” 23 And Jesus said to him, “‘If You can?’ All things are possible to him who believes.”*

1. **Believe for things that don’t happen to others**

***Psalm 91:5-7***

*You will not be afraid of the terror by night,*

*Or of the arrow that flies by day;*

*6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,*

*Or of the destruction that lays waste at noon.*

*7 A thousand may fall at your side*

*And ten thousand at your right hand,*

*But it shall not approach you.*