

## The Top Ten Grace Killers

### **Grace Killer #1: Combining Covenants**

**Truth:** We are under ONE covenant, the New Covenant.

**Error:** We are under the New Covenant, BUT/AND parts of the Old Covenant still apply to Christians today.

#### **A. WHY DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THIS ERROR?**

##### **1. Many believers do not understand the Old Covenant is OBSOLETE.**

Hebrews 8:13<sup>1</sup>

*In that He says, "A NEW covenant," HE HAS MADE THE FIRST OBSOLETE. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.*

- **Not understanding that Jesus made the Old Covenant OBSOLETE when He established the New Covenant, the following verse is misappropriated.**

1 Timothy 3:16

ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- **The word "scripture" at this time in Church history referred to both the Old Covenant writings AND the writings of the Early Church, specifically the writings of the Apostles. So, many have falsely assumed that we are still under the Old Covenant or at least parts of it AND the writings of the Apostles.<sup>2</sup>**
- **Yes, yes, yes! We can learn from the Old Testament writings. ABSOLUTELY!!!**
- **HOWEVER, AS TO WHICH COVENANT CHRISTIANS ARE UNDER, THERE CAN BE NO CONFUSION. The Old Covenant is OBSOLETE. We are NOT under the Old.**

##### **2. Confusion about what Jesus said about the law being fulfilled.**

Matthew 5:17-18

*"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.*

- **Jesus came to fulfill the Law. He accomplished His mission.**

Luke 24:44-45

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stated, Scripture is taken from The Holy Bible, New King James Version Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> **How do we know that "scripture" also includes the writings of Paul?**

2 Peter 3:14-16

*Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; <sup>15</sup> and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—**as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, <sup>16</sup> as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.***

Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**" <sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

- **Jesus fulfilled the righteous requirement of the law FOR us.**

**Romans 8:3-4**

For what the law **could not do** in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> **that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us** who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

## IMPROVING OUR UNDERSTANDING

- The Old Covenant was made between God and the Children of Israel, ratified with the blood of animals, and **BASED ON THEIR OBEDIENCE** to the law.
- The New Covenant was made between God the Father and God the Son (and we are in the Son), ratified with the blood of God the Son, and **BASED ON God the Son's OBEDIENCE**.
- Under the Old Covenant the emphasis was upon listening to the law, to angels, and to the prophets. Under the New Covenant we listen to the Son.

**Hebrews 1:1-2**

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup>in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

**Matthew 17:4-5**

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

**John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>17</sup>**For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.**

- When we try to contain the New Covenant in the Old or try to patch the Old Covenant with the New destruction ensues. We nullify His cross when we try to mix the Old and New Covenants in any way.

**Matthew 9:16-17**

No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and the tear is made worse. <sup>17</sup> Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

**Galatians 5:1-6**

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. <sup>2</sup> Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. <sup>3</sup> And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. <sup>4</sup> You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. <sup>5</sup> For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. <sup>7</sup>

You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? <sup>8</sup> This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. <sup>9</sup> A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

- **What is the New Covenant?**

**Luke 22:20**

And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup>"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup>"They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

**Isaiah 54:9-11**

<sup>9</sup>"For this is like the days of Noah to Me,  
When I swore that the waters of Noah  
Would not flood the earth again;  
So I have sworn that I will not be angry with you  
Nor will I rebuke you.

<sup>10</sup>"For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake,  
But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you,  
And My covenant of peace will not be shaken,"  
Says the LORD who has compassion on you.

**Isaiah 54:14-15**

<sup>14</sup>"In righteousness you will be established;  
You will be far from oppression, for you will not fear;  
And from terror, for it will not come near you.

<sup>15</sup>"If anyone fiercely assails you it will not be from Me.  
Whoever assails you will fall because of you.

**Isaiah 54:17**

No weapon formed against you shall prosper,  
And every tongue which rises against you in judgment  
You shall condemn.  
This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,  
And their righteousness is from Me,"  
Says the LORD.

## CLEARING UP CONFUSION

### I We need to clearly identify the dividing line between the Old and New Covenant.<sup>3</sup>

The New Covenant DOES NOT BEGIN in chapters 1 of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. It begins at the cross and resurrection. The New Covenant/Testament required a death before it could begin.

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<sup>3</sup> The terms "covenant" and "testament" are used interchangeably throughout the Bible.

**Hebrews 9:15-17**

For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.<sup>16</sup>For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it.<sup>17</sup>For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.

**Colossians 2:13-14**

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, <sup>14</sup> having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

**II We need to understand that Jesus' ministry was to the Jews under the law of Moses.** Jesus was born under and taught the law. His primary ministry was to the Jewish people. He was preparing them for the New Covenant Kingdom. So, some of what He said reflected the law and prophets, and some of what He taught was as a prophecy for those who would believe.

**Galatians 4:4-5**

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,<sup>5</sup>so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

**Matthew 10:5-7**

These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup> But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

**Matthew 15:21-28**

Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." <sup>23</sup> But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." <sup>24</sup> But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup> Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" <sup>26</sup> But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." <sup>27</sup> And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

**John 1:11**

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

**III It is imperative that we carefully examine the context of the words of Christ.** To whom was He speaking and why? Was He preparing the Jews for the kingdom, giving a universal principle of His kingdom, answering a question about the law and prophets, or prophesying of what the life of those who would believe in Him after his resurrection would be like? It isn't accurate to apply every word He spoke to you who are NOT under the Old Covenant. We need to pay attention and compare his words with the grace taught after His resurrection.

**Matthew 19:16-22**

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

<sup>17</sup> So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

<sup>18</sup> He said to Him, “Which ones?”

Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ <sup>19</sup> ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

<sup>20</sup> The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?”

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

<sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

- The man is asking Jesus how to have eternal life?
- Jesus tells him to keep the law!!!
- When the Philippian jailor asked Paul and Silas what to do to be saved, Paul said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).
- Jesus was speaking to a Jewish man who was under the law. At that time, keeping the law was required.
- Jesus also told him to sell what he had and give to the poor.
- Is that what we should tell people today...that they can be saved by selling all and giving to the poor? Of course not. We are “saved by grace through faith, and that not of ourselves, NOT OF WORKS, lest anyone should boast” (Eph. 2:8).

#### IV The Old Covenant was a system of blessings and curses.

Under the law a person was blessed and not cursed based on his/her obedience to the law. Believers in Jesus are simply blessed by simply being in Christ. We don't need to and can't earn His blessings and we are not cursed if we disobey.

**Deuteronomy 28:1-2**

*“Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup>“All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God.”*

**Deuteronomy 28:15**

*“But it shall come about, if you do not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.”*

**Ephesians 1:3**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*

**Romans 8:32**

*He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*

V The Old Covenant was between God and Man. The New Covenant is between the Father and the Son and we are in the Son. Our blessings are ALREADY ours by grace through faith. We cannot and do not earn them. We do not lose them if we fall short. They are our inheritance. Our blessings are based on Christ's obedience, not ours.

**Exodus 19:7-8**

So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. <sup>8</sup> All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!" And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

**1 Corinthians 1:30**

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.

**Romans 5:19**

For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

**2 Peter 1:3**

Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

**WHY THIS IS ALL SO IMPORTANT**

**Mixing the Old into the New gives us a confused (mixed) view of our relationship with God.**

OLD COVENANT	NEW COVENANT	MIXTURE ERROR
<p><b>Isaiah 59:2</b>  <i>But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that He will not hear.</i></p>	<p><b>Romans 4:7-8</b>  <i>Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. <sup>8</sup>Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.</i></p>	<p><b>MIXTURE ERROR:</b>                      Jesus forgave all my sins and I have a relationship with Him, but when I sin, I am separated from Him again and need to be forgiven again in order to have our relationship restored and have him face me again.</p>
<p><b>Psalms 51:11</b>  <i>Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me</i></p>	<p><b>Hebrews 13:5</b>  <i>I will never leave you, nor forsake you.</i></p>	<p><b>MIXTURE ERROR:</b>                      If I am doing my best to please God and constantly inviting His presence to be with me and don't have any unconfessed sins, then God is with me.</p>
<p><b>Exodus 20:20</b>  <i>And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that you sin not.</i></p>	<p><b>Romans 8:15</b>  <i>For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"</i></p>	<p><b>MIXTURE ERROR:</b>                      We are children of God, but we walk afraid of His wrath or judgment coming on us for falling short.</p>