



Devotional Study Guide Journal

January 20th

Covenantal Divide¹

This is part of a lesson on the Grace of God and discusses the importance of distinguishing between covenants focusing on the Old and New Covenant. If you would like to see the entire lesson go to <https://graceandfaithministries.org>. Navigate to the SGF Teachings tab, and select Grace of God. This will take you to all the study notes. This is part of Lesson One.

Summary: Christians are under the New Covenant ONLY and not a mixtures of the Old and New. We are not under the Law of Moses. The New Covenant begins at the cross, not in the first chapters of the gospels.

- 1. When reading the Scriptures, it is important to keep in mind the covenant under which the account takes place. While every word of Scripture is inspired by God and profitable to us, not every Scripture *applies* to New Covenant believers.**

Genesis to Malachi (what we “call” the Old Testament) is important to New Covenant believers in many ways.

- The Scriptures written before Christ, spoke of Him. Jesus and the early church used these writings to prove that He was the Messiah and to preach Christ.
 - **Luke 24:27**
And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.
 - **Acts 18:27b-28**
And when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; ²⁸ for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.
- There are some Old Testament Scriptures which are yet to be fulfilled (i.e. about the Millenium)

¹ Notes compiled by C. D. and D. H. Hildebrand

- Many of the names and descriptions of God occur in Genesis-Malachi. These can help us better appreciate the beauty and character of our God.
- Negative Examples: We are able to see what types of behaviors do not please God (i.e. **1 Corinthians 10**), but even so, God deals with us according to the New Covenant of grace.
- Positive Examples: These writings can help us see what types of behavior to follow (**Hebrews 11**).

There are many examples that inspire us in the Old Testament Scriptures especially considering that these saints were not born again and did not have God's presence dwelling in them. They believed in and were faithful to God and died

Major Covenants of Scripture

- **Adamic Covenant** (from Adam to the Flood)
- **Noahic Covenant** (from Noah to Abraham)
- **Abrahamic Covenant** (from Abraham until the Law)
 - Helps us understand righteousness by faith and the undeserved blessings of Abraham.
 - **Job** (*It is not recorded that Job had any covenant with God. It is believed that Job lived before the Law and perhaps four generations out from Abraham.*)
 - ◆ *While there is much to be appreciated and learned from the book of Job, our experience as New Covenant believers is not to be perfectly compared to his. He neither had the protections from evil under the law, nor the promises under the New Covenant Job. Our experience is better contrasted to Job's, not compared.*
- **The Law** (from the giving of the Law in Exodus until the cross)
 - **The Prophets** (written primarily to mourn over and rebuke Israel for their sins and to warn of impending judgment for their disobedience)
 - **The Psalms** (written by Old Covenant believers who did not have the indwelling presence of God and who were not born again). Some Psalms are completely relevant to us. Others show a contrast to our experience as believers. For example, they begged

that the Holy Spirit not be taken from them. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would abide with us permanently.

- **The Proverbs** (written mostly by Solomon while under the Law/Old Covenant). We can glean much wisdom from the Proverbs but must always keep in mind that the author did not have the indwelling presence of God nor had he been born again.

◆ **The Gospels** : The New Covenant begins at the death of Jesus. Jesus came to minister to the Jews under the Old Covenant. Jesus was born under the Law and therefore followed the law perfectly.

- **Galatians 4:4**

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

◆ It is important to discern to whom Jesus was speaking and if He was referring to the Law or to His new covenant.

- *Jesus told a leper that He healed, to fulfill the requirements of the law for those healed of leprosy. That is no longer necessary.*
- *Jesus told the Jews they did well to tithe their spices because this was a requirement of the law. We are not required to tithe our spices under the New Covenant.*
- *Many of the rebukes by Jesus in the gospels are directed toward the Scribes and Pharisees and not to New Covenant believers.*

- **The New Covenant** (from the cross until eternity)

- **Hebrews 1:1-2**

*God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **2 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.*

- **Mark 9:7** (The Mount of Transfiguration)

*And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. **Hear Him!**"*

- **Hebrews 8:6**

*But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a **better** covenant, which was established on **better** promises.*

For a side-by-side comparison of the Old and New Covenant, see the chart at the end of this lesson entitled "Contrast between the Old and the New Covenant"

2. Grace Foretold: Saints prior to the New Covenant looked for the Grace that we live in right now.

1 Peter 1:10-12

As to this salvation, the prophets who **prophesied of the grace² that would come to you** made careful searches and inquiries, ¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look.

Matthew 13:17

"For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."

Hebrews 11:39-40

And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ because God had provided **something better for us**, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

3. The grace of God came (into being) by Jesus Christ.

Galatians 4:4

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

John 1:14, 16-17

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**. ¹⁶ For of His fullness we have all received, and **grace upon grace**. ¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; **grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ**.

4. Why is God gracious to man?

In the world's system grace is scarce. Generally speaking you get what you deserve if you break a law, and you receive what you earn. In our thinking God's mercy and grace are contrary to what "makes sense". Sometimes we have a hard time accepting that God is not holding our sins against us and that He is "freely" giving us ALL things. Yet this is the covenant He has chosen to bring about through His Son. But, why?

² Jesus, Gospel of Grace, New Covenant

☞ **He IS faithful to His promises.** ☞

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, ³²not 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. ³³"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. ³⁴"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."

☞ **He IS the God of all grace.** ☞

1 Peter 5:10

*After you have suffered for a little while, the **God of all grace**, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.*

☞ **God IS love and He loves us.**

John 3:16-17

*"For God so **loved** the world, that He **gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.*

1John 4:8-10

*The one who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**. ⁹ By this the **love of God** was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, **but that He loved us and sent His Son** to be the propitiation for our sins.*

Romans 5:8

*But **God demonstrates His own love toward us**, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Ephesians 1:2-9

***Grace** to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 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, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In **love** ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the **kind intention of His will**, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of **His grace**, which He **freely bestowed** on us in the **Beloved**. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the **riches of His grace** ⁸ **which He lavished on us**. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to **His kind intention** which He purposed in Him

Titus 3:4-6

But when the **kindness** and the **love** of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to **His mercy** He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ **whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior**.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also **freely give (graciously grace)** us **all things**?

Contrast between the Old and New Covenant³

Old Covenant	New Covenant
Preliminary, preparatory, precursor	Final, "once and for all" (Heb. 7:27; 9:12,26; 10:10,12,14), ultimate
Promise of fulfillment Prophecy of new covenant	Fulfillment of promise and prophecy (Jere. 31:31-34; Ezek. 37:26; Lk 1:72; Acts 3:25; 7:8; Rom 11:27; Gal 3:17,29)
Temporary, transitory, fading (II Cor. 3:11)	Permanent, remains (II Cor. 3:11; Heb 7:24) Eternality of Christ's life (Jn 3:16)

³ <http://www.christinyou.net/pages/covenants.html>

<p>Pre-figuring, pictorial, preview Symbol/parable (Heb. 9:9) Pattern (Heb. 8:5), blueprint</p>	<p>Reality (Jn. 14:6)</p>
<p>Shadow (Heb. 8:5; 10:1)</p>	<p>Substance (Col. 2:17; Heb. 10:1)</p>
<p>Physical, racial, national</p>	<p>Spiritual, re-birth, new heart and spirit (Jere. 32:39; Ezek. 37:14)</p>
<p>Exclusivistic, elitist (Eph. 2:12)</p>	<p>Universal, non-discriminatory (Gal. 3:28)</p>
<p>Concealed, veiled God's intent (II Cor. 3:12-18)</p>	<p>Reveals God's intent in Christ (Col. 1:27; 2:2)</p>
<p>Pointed to Messiah Gen. 3:15 II Sam. 7:12-16 Isa. 9:6,7; 53:1-12</p>	<p>Enacted in Jesus Christ (Lk. 22:20; I Cor. 11:25; II Cor. 3:6; Heb. 8:8-13 Mediator (Heb. 9:15; 12:24; I Tim 2:5) Surety, Guarantee (Heb. 7:22)</p>
<p>Means to an end; not end in itself</p>	<p>End intent of God (Rom. 10:4; Eph. 1:3,10) Finished work - (Jn. 19:30)</p>
<p>Limited hope</p>	<p>Better hope - (Heb. 7:19; 10:23; I Tim. 1:1)</p>
<p>Animal sacrifices (Ex. 24:5,8; Heb 9:12,20) shedding of blood (Heb. 9:18,22)</p>	<p>Sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:12; 13:20) Ratified by His blood (Heb. 9:12-24) Lamb of God</p>
<p>Commemorated Exodus (Exod. 12:14-28) "bread of affliction" (Deut 16:3)</p>	<p>Commemorated in Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:28; Mk 14:24; Lk 22:20; I Cor. 11:25)</p>
<p>Inferior</p>	<p>Superior, better, more excellent (Heb. 8:6,7)</p>

<p>Inadequate, insufficient (Heb. 9:1-10) (quite adequate to reveal man's inadequacy, but not to effect restoration with God and functional expression of divine character)</p> <p>- Could not make righteous (Gal. 2:21)</p> <p>- Could not forgive sin (Heb. 10:4,11) "rolled-over, rolled-back," IOU, stop-gap, cover-up, temporary discharge, held at bay, piled deeper and deeper</p> <p>- Could not impart life (Gal. 3:21) - Could not cleanse conscience (Heb. 9:9)</p> <p>- Could not perfect proper function (Heb. 7:19; 9:9; 10:1)</p> <p>Impotent, ineffectual (Heb. 7:18) Not profitable, beneficial, advantageous</p> <p>Law, legislated standards of behavior, rules and regulations, codes of conduct (II Cor. 3:6,8); ordinances (Eph.</p>	<p>Adequate, sufficient, competency in Christ (Christian finds His adequacy in Christ - II Cor. 3:5) Functional expression of divine character Partake of divine nature (II Pet. 1:4)</p> <p>- Made righteous in Christ - (Jer. 33:16) Rom. 5:19; II Cor. 3:9; 5:21 Holiness (Heb. 10:14)</p> <p>- Sins forgiven (Jere. 31:34; Ezek 16:63; Matt. 26:28; Rom. 11:27; Heb. 10:18 Saved forever - Heb. 7:25 Day of salvation (Isa 49:8; Jere 33:16)</p> <p>- Life of God in Christ (John 10:10) - Cleanses conscience (Heb. 9:14; 10:22)</p> <p>- Perfects proper function of mankind (Phil. 3:15; Heb. 7:28; 10:14; 12:23)</p> <p>Empowering, enabling Provision in Christ (II Cor. 3:4-6) Holy Spirit advantage (Ezek. 36:27; Jn. 16:7; II Cor. 3:6,7; 17,18)</p> <p>Grace - the dynamic of God's activity to express His character "Law written in hearts" (Heb.</p>
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2:15)

Performance based obedience
obligation, requirements,
achievement

Behavior modification,
ethics, morality Christ

Epistemology, belief-system

Knowledge "about" God (Heb.
8:11)
Cerebral, instructional

Physical "people of God" (Exod.
6:7; 29:45;
Deut. 27:9; II Sam. 7:23; Jere.
11:4)

Physical Israel (Exod. 34;27; Josh.
7:8)

External - "letter"
(II Cor. 3:6; Rom. 2:29; 7:6)
Written, codified Book-religion
(Jn. 5:39)

Ineffectual, external worship
(Heb. 9:1-10; 10:1,2,11)

Indirect access through priests,
(Heb. 9:8)
Day of Atonement
"Hide & seek" - II Cor. 3:12-18

8:10;10:16)

Relationally based obedience -
"listen under"
Obedience of faith (Rom. 1:5)

Behavior manifestation of life of
Jesus Christ
(II Cor. 4:10,11)

Ontological presence of God's
Being
(Ezek. 37:27; Eph. 2:22)

Relational intimacy in "knowing"
God in
Christ (Jere. 31:34; Heb. 8:11)

Spiritual "People of God" (Jere
31:33,34;
32:38; Ezek. 37:27; II Cor. 6:16;
Heb. 8:10; I Pet. 2:9,10; Rev.
21:3)

Spiritual Israel (Jere. 31:31,33;
Ezek. 34:30;
37:28; Rom. 9:6; Gal. 6:16)

Internal - Law written in hearts
(Heb. 8:10; 10:16)
Investiture with dynamic
presence and
character of God

Effectual worship of God (Heb.
8:1-6;
9:1-14; 10:24,25; 13:15)

Direct access to God (II Cor. 3:12-
18;
Heb. 7:25; 10:19)
Reconciled - Rom. 5:10,11; II
Cor 5:18

<p>Sin constantly remembered (Heb. 10:2,3) Day of Atonement Sin-conscious, sin-confessing, sin-suppressing, sin-recounting</p> <p>Threat of punishment</p> <p>Condemnation (II Cor. 3:9)</p> <p>Static</p> <p>Ends in death; die trying to perform and conform (II Cor. 3:6,7), kills</p> <p>Physical kingdom</p> <p>Reveals the need for the new (Heb. 8:7)</p> <p>Inferior glory (II Cor. 3)</p> <p>Planned obsolescence (Heb. 8:13), served its purpose, outdated, out-moded, antiquated, thing of the past, faded out</p> <p>Taken away (Heb. 10:9), supplanted, superseded, done with</p>	<p>Sin remembered no more - Jere. 31:34; Heb. 8:12; 10:17 Christ-conscious Finished work of Christ (Jn. 19:30)</p> <p>Punishment taken in Jesus Christ He took death consequences</p> <p>No condemnation (Rom. 8:1) Liberating, freeing (II Cor. 3:17)</p> <p>Dynamic, vital, active, living</p> <p>Expresses life of God in Christ (II Cor. 3:6,7)</p> <p>Reign of Christ as Lord, Lordship of Christ Kingdom of God; Theocratic rule Spiritual fulfillment of Davidic kingdom (Jere. 33:17; Ezek. 37:24)</p> <p>Reveals "newness of life" in Christ (Rom. 6)</p> <p>Superior glory (II Cor. 3:7-11,18)</p> <p>Forever functionally new (Ezek. 37:28) abides forever - Heb. 7:24 faultless - Heb. 8:7 consummation of ages - Heb. 9:26</p> <p>Never broken, remains (II Cor. 3:11) Surpasses old (II Cor. 3:10)</p>
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<p>Set aside (Heb. 7:18), displaced, replaced, faded away (II Cor. 3:11,13), terminated, canceled, invalidated, disavowed, put away, annulled, abrogated, abolished, null and void, ceased to exist</p>	<p>Eternality of Christ's operative life (Jere. 32:40; Heb. 13:20) Eternal inheritance (Heb. 9:15)</p>
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