

REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE NEW COVENANT MINISTRY AND ITS MINISTERS

Messages One and Two

Christ Himself as the All-inclusive Life-giving Spirit Being the Reality and Content of the New Covenant Ministry and the Constitution of the New Covenant Ministers

Scripture Reading: Isa. 42:6; 49:8; Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-12; 2 Cor. 3:3-6, 18; 4:1

I. In Greek the same word is used for both *covenant* and *testament*:

- A. A covenant and a testament are the same, but when the maker of the covenant is living, it is a covenant, and when he has died, it is a testament; a testament in today's terms is a will.
- B. A covenant is an agreement containing some promises to accomplish certain things for the covenanted people, while a testament is a will containing certain accomplished things that are bequeathed to the inheritor—Heb. 9:16-17; cf. Deut. 11:29; 28:1, 15; Jer. 31:31-32.

II. Christ Himself as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit is the new covenant, the new testament, given to us by God—Isa. 42:6; 49:8; Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-12; 1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:3-6:

- A. Through His death Christ fulfilled the demands of God's righteousness according to His law and enacted the new covenant (Rom. 6:23; 3:21; 10:3-4; Luke 22:20; Heb. 9:16-17), and in His resurrection He became the new covenant with all its bequests (1 Cor. 15:45b; Isa. 42:6; Phil. 1:19).
- B. In His ascension Christ opened the scroll of the new covenant concerning God's economy, and in His heavenly ministry He is carrying out its contents—Rev. 5:1-5.
- C. As the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Christ overcame and defeated Satan; as the redeeming Lamb, Christ took away the sin of fallen man; and as the seven Spirits, Christ infuses us with Himself as the contents of the scroll of the new covenant—vv. 5-6.
- D. God's salvation, God's blessings, and all of God's riches have been covenanted to us, and this covenant is Christ as "the Spirit" with His bountiful supply—Isa. 42:6; 2 Cor. 3:6, 17; Phil. 1:19:
 - 1. The reality of all the hundreds of bequests in the New Testament is Christ as the life-giving Spirit—Gen. 22:18a; Gal. 3:14; 1 Cor. 1:30; 15:45b; Eph. 1:3.
 - 2. Christ is the reality of the new testament, the reality of all that God is and of all that God has given to us; therefore, Christ Himself is the new testament.
 - 3. The bequests are many, but all these many bequests are actually one person—the pneumatic Christ; God has willed Himself in Christ as the Spirit to us—John 20:22; Eph. 3:8.
 - 4. The bequests bequeathed to us by the Lord in the new testament are inexhaustible, and they are for us to experience and enjoy through the Spirit for eternity—Heb. 9:15.

III. Our spirit is the "bank account" of all the bequests of the new covenant; by the law of the Spirit of life, all these bequests are dispensed into us and made real to us—Rom. 8:2, 10, 6, 11, 16; Heb. 8:10; John 16:13:

- A. In our spirit we have the presence of God, the speaking of God, the meeting with God, and the dispensing of God through His operation as the law of the divine life to impart and inscribe Himself into all our inward parts—Heb. 8:10.
- B. The Lord makes His covenant known to those who fear Him, and He dispenses Himself as the unsearchable reality of His covenant to those who love Him—Psa. 25:14; Isa. 11:1-3a; Psa. 86:11; 130:4; 1 Cor. 2:9; 8:3; Luke 7:40-50; 1 John 4:16-19.

- C. Christ as the new covenant is our portion—our cup of salvation and our cup of blessing; we can drink Him as our salvation and blessing by calling upon His precious name—Luke 22:20; Psa. 16:5; 23:5; 116:13; 1 Cor. 10:16a.
- D. Christ is the pneumatic Executor, Mediator, of the new covenant in our spirit; as the Executor, He makes every bequest of His will available and real as we receive the word of His will by means of all prayer—Heb. 8:6; 1 John 5:6.
- E. As the surety of the new covenant, Christ is the pledge that everything in the new covenant will be fulfilled; He guarantees and ensures the effectiveness of the new testament—Heb. 7:22.
- F. As the divine High Priest, Christ is executing the new covenant by interceding for us, praying that we would be brought into the reality of the new covenant—v. 25; Rom. 8:34, 26.
- G. As the Minister of the holy places, Christ is serving us with the bequests, the blessings, of the new testament, making the facts of the new covenant effective in our experience—Heb. 8:2.
- H. In order to receive the application of all the blessings in the new covenant, we need to be those who respond to Christ's heavenly ministry by entering into His intercession for the churches and His ministering God into others—Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7:25; 8:2; Acts 6:4.

IV. The ministers of the new covenant are constituted by and with the Lord as the life-giving Spirit (2 Cor. 3:6, 15-18; 4:1) with all His aspects revealed in 2 Corinthians; the constituting work of the unsearchably rich Spirit takes place as we experience and enjoy Him in His many aspects through sufferings, consuming pressures, and the killing work of the cross (1:8-12; 4:5-13; 11:28-30; 12:7-9):

- A. The anointing Spirit is the indwelling, compound Spirit moving and working within us to impart all of God's divine ingredients and constituents into us—1:21; Phil. 1:19; Exo. 30:23-25; Rom. 10:12-13:
 - 1. The reaching of the anointing accomplishes the central purpose of God's salvation to anoint the compounded God into us that we may be united, mingled, and incorporated with Him—1 Cor. 15:45b; 1 John 2:20, 27.
 - 2. The teaching of the anointing is the inward feeling generated by the moving of the Spirit within us, enabling us to know God's mind and to live in Him, teaching us the things concerning the Triune God and His activities—v. 27; Acts 16:6-7.
- B. The sealing Spirit forms the divine elements into an impression to express God's image—2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13:
 - 1. The sealing Spirit saturates the believers continuously unto the redemption of their body—4:30.
 - 2. The sealing Spirit transforms the believers into a treasure to God as His inheritance—1:11.
 - 3. The more we are sealed, the more we bear the image of God to be constituted into the masterpiece of God—2 Cor. 3:18b; Eph. 2:10.
- C. The pledging Spirit gives us a foretaste as a sample and guarantee of the full taste of God—2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5:
 - 1. The Spirit's pledging guarantees that God is our inheritance—Eph. 1:14.
 - 2. Christ as the pledging Spirit is in us for our taste, for our enjoyment of Him as our divine inheritance, our allotted portion, through the exercise of our spirit—Psa. 34:8; 1 Pet. 2:3; Col. 1:12.
- D. The inscribing Spirit writes Christ into us to make us the living letters of Christ—2 Cor. 3:3:
 - 1. Christ is being inscribed into us with the spiritual ink, the Spirit of the living God; if we are under the Spirit's inscribing, we have the deep sensation of being living within.
 - 2. The Spirit is the ink, and the content of the ink is Christ with His person, work, and attainments; the compound Spirit as the compound ink adds the substance of Christ into us and saturates us with the essence of Christ.

- E. The life-giving Spirit, the vivifying Spirit, imparts the divine life into our being to make us men of life with the ministry of life—vv. 6, 17; John 7:38:
 - 1. When we study and read the Bible prayerfully with the exercise of our spirit, we are vivified—2 Cor. 3:6; John 6:63.
 - 2. To be one who can give life to others, we must abide in the divine life and walk, live, and have our being in the divine life—1 John 5:16a.
- F. The ministering Spirit imparts all that Christ is into us and makes all that Christ is and has real to us—2 Cor. 3:8; John 16:13-15:
 - 1. We can receive the supply of the ministering Spirit by exercising our spirit to pray and call on the Lord—Gal. 3:5a; Col. 4:2; Rom. 10:12-13.
 - 2. The ministering Spirit ministers Christ into us and ministers Christ to others through us—2 Cor. 3:6; cf. Phil. 1:25.
- G. The freeing Spirit frees us from the bondage of the letter of the law; the Spirit of the Lord is the Lord Himself, with whom is freedom—2 Cor. 3:17; 4:5; Gal. 2:4; 5:1:
 - 1. This freeing includes full satisfaction, with a rich, supporting supply and the full enjoyment of Christ—John 4:14b.
 - 2. This freeing includes the enjoyment of true rest, without being under the heavy burden to keep the law—Matt. 11:28-30.
- H. The transforming Spirit dispenses the divine life, nature, essence, element—even the divine being—into us so that we may be metabolically changed in our inner being—2 Cor. 3:18:
 - 1. When we turn our hearts to the Lord to behold and reflect the glory of the Lord with an unveiled face, He infuses us with the elements of what He is and what He has done.
 - 2. Thus, we are being transformed metabolically from one degree of glory to another degree of glory to have His life shape by His life power with His life essence.
- I. The transmitting Spirit transmits all that Christ is with all the riches of God into us for our participation—13:14:
 - 1. God is love, and this love is being transmitted as grace into us by the Spirit, who is the Transmitter.
 - 2. The Spirit is the fellowship, the communication, the circulation, the transmission, of the grace of Christ with the love of the Father, transmitting the divine riches into our being for our enjoyment.