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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Bereans “received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.”

1

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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 1:17
Lesson #8
Covenant confusion
07/20/2025

2

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

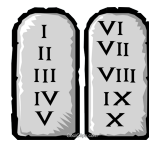
1. **Take your baptism seriously.** Don't confuse a necessary culture war with the world and an unnecessary civil war within the church.
2. **View differing perspectives as opportunities** to grow in wisdom and in witness to the world.
3. **Grow antenna not horns.** Listen, question, seek trusted leader's advice, work for consensus, and act in good faith.
4. Remember that we are **both “needed” & “needy”**.
5. **Major on majors, minor on minors.** Lighten up.

The divisive elements in community are driven by **fear & those who insist they alone are right.**



3

Many doctrinal divisions in the church have to do with one issue.



The relationship of the Old Testament Law to the Gospel of Christ as taught by the Apostles.



Does the O.C. Law
1. save us from our sins,
2. authenticate true faith,
3. are we dead to the Law?

4

The Law was to underscore the message of Gen. 1-3 and set the stage for the Gospel.

Was the Law given to identify those who were saved?



Man is an unworthy sinner who is worth saving by God's grace through the Cross of Christ.



5

2 Peter 3

“15 ... Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which **the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.**”

The relationship of Paul's teaching to the O.T. can be confusing and is often misunderstood.

The problem is not the teaching but the distortion of it.

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **handling accurately the word of truth.**”

6

1 Corinthians 13

"¹¹ When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. ¹² For **now we see in a mirror dimly**, but then face to face; **now I know in part**, but then I will know fully just as it also have been fully known. ¹³ But **now faith, hope, love, abide** these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Expect some things to be UNCLEAR NOW.

Romans 11:33

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How **unsearchable** are his judgments and how **inscrutable** his ways!"

Faith, hope, & love should be CLEAR.

2 Peter 1:3

"seeing that His divine power **has granted to us everything pertaining to life ungodliness,**"

What we need to fulfill our calling is CLEAR.

7

Galatians 4

"¹ Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. ³ So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.

⁴ But when the fullness of the time came, **God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,** ⁵ **in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."**

**In what sense
are we free
from the Law?**



8

Cheap Grace

Celebrate God's love without God's justice.

**Preaching grace
without Christ's
sacrifice.**

**Confessing faith
without our
sacrifice.**

Christ died for us and we died with him.

We are IN Christ and Christ is IN us.

**The Word of
the Cross**

**The Way of
the Cross**

9

**All Scripture is written FOR us,
but not TO us, or ABOUT us**

2 Chronicles 7:14

"and **My people** who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal **their land.**"

**This text is TO and ABOUT the nation Israel
NOT AMERICA.**

**As a principle it is applicable to
the Body of Christ ONLY.**

10

John 1:17

"For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ."

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Epistles

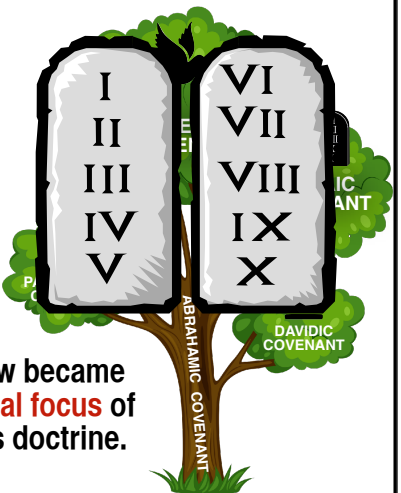
Rev.

Synoptic Gospels
are part of the
Old Covenant.

John's gospel is a
bridge to the New
Covenant culture
that follows.

11

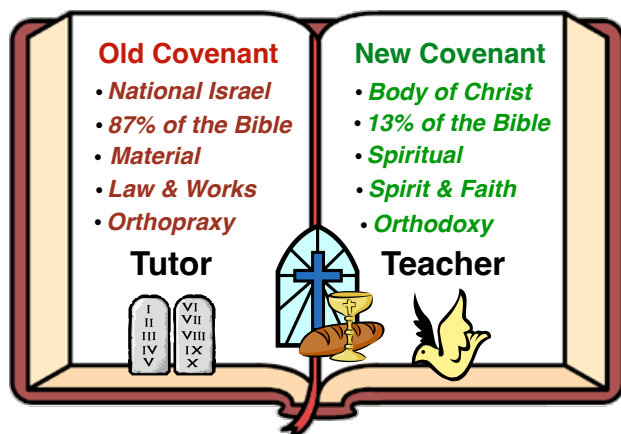
Keeping the Law
was the ticket
that **identified
a true Israelite.**



The Law became
a **central focus** of
Israel's doctrine.

12

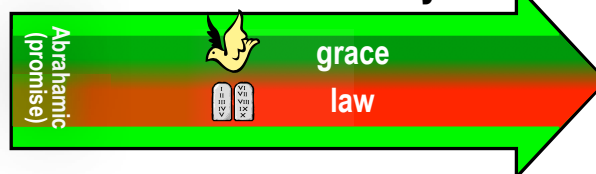
The challenge of two different emphases



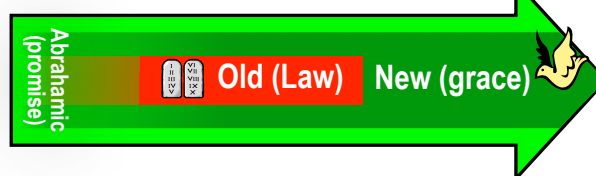
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Old and New covenants

View #1 continuity



View #2 contrast



14

The crucifixion, resurrection, Pentecost events marked the beginning of the New covenant age.



Ephesians 3:3-5

“that by revelation there was made known to me the **mystery**, . . . which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it **has now been revealed** to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit,”

15

The crucifixion, resurrection, Pentecost events marked the beginning of the New covenant age.



1 Corinthians 11:25

“This cup is the new covenant **in my blood**.”

Acts 11:15

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us **at the beginning**.”

16

The crucifixion, resurrection, Pentecost events marked the beginning of the New covenant age.



Romans 10:4

“For Christ is the end of the law of righteousness to everyone who believes.”

17

Acts 28

“23 And when they had set a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly **testifying about the kingdom of God**, and trying to **persuade them concerning Jesus**, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening. . .

30 And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters, and was welcoming all who came to him, 31 **preaching the kingdom of God**, and **teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ**”

The Gospel of the kingdom (preached BY Jesus) The Gospel of the Cross (preached ABOUT Jesus).
The **first** set the stage for the **second**.

18



Some practical implications



The Sabbath

- It is the only commandment, not notarized in the Epistles.
- It is a principle that applies to all of life, not just a special day.

The Tithe

- The O.C. standard - a three fold "10%" tithe (poor, Priests, temple)
- The N.C. standard is "equality" 2 Cor.8.

The nation Israel

- There is little N.C. emphasis on Land, Temple, Jerusalem, etc.
- The restoration of the nation Israel could be "as the church".

The 10 Commandments

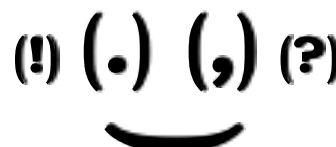
- What is the significance of the Law to Christians today?

19

How should we punctuate our theological beliefs?

1 Corinthians 13

"12 For **now we see in a mirror dimly**, but then face to face; **now I know in part**, but then I will know fully just as it also have been fully known. 13 But **now** faith, hope, love, abide these three; but **the greatest of these is love.**"



20

Old Covenant

Leviticus 18:5

"So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, **by which a man may live** if he does them; I am the Lord."



New Covenant

Galatians 3

"12 However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, **"He who practices them shall live by them."** 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us."

Romans 3:28

"For we maintain that a man is justified by faith **apart from works of the Law.**"

21

LAW

Matthew 6:15

"But if you do not forgive men, **then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**"

Ephesians 4:32

"And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, **forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**"

Grace



22

➡ Matt.5:22-23 The Sermon on the Mount is full of warnings about failing to fulfill the spirit of the Law. "whoever shall say 'you fool' shall be **guilty enough to go into the hell of fire.**".

➡ Matt.5:29-30 "And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for **it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.**"

➡ Matt.7:19 "Every tree **that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**"

23

Evangelical Christians disagree as to what extent the 2nd point is essential to the 1st.



Discipleship salvation

Does a person have to display the obedience of a disciple of Christ to notarize their faith?

24

Discipleship salvation

- Not everyone** who professes to be a Christian really is saved.
- We will know true Christians by their **obedience** to the moral law of God.
- We must come to Christ and **follow after Him** if He is to save us.
- A true believer **cannot and will not** live with unresolved sins in this life.

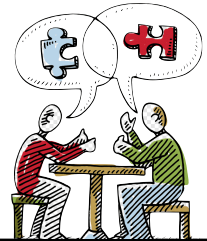
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Calvinists point to the fixed decrees of God, while Arminians point to the relational dynamics of God.

Both are right in what they affirm but wrong in what they reject.

The Bible gives us a theology which is more human than Calvinism, and more divine than Arminianism, and more Christian than either of them.

Philip Schaff (paraphrase)



26

shabbat שבת
shalom שלום



The Creation *is all about the affirmation of what is finished* Our Striving
Our Identity Our Redemption

27

James 2:20
“faith without works is **useless**”

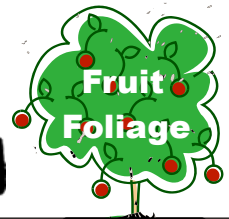
That which is of use in saving us in this life.

That which justifies before man.

That which saves us in the life to come.

That which justifies before God.

James



Faith

Paul

28

Healthy community and leadership, will **teach, model, encourage, and make way** for those who are:

Truthful

Transparent

Trusting

Trustworthy

Thankful

Tolerant

Tender

Tough

29

Don't confuse the ministries of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.

Tutor
(Mirror)



The Law

Surrogate
(Substitute)



Jesus

Paraclete
(Comforter)



The Spirit

30

Hard Questions

