



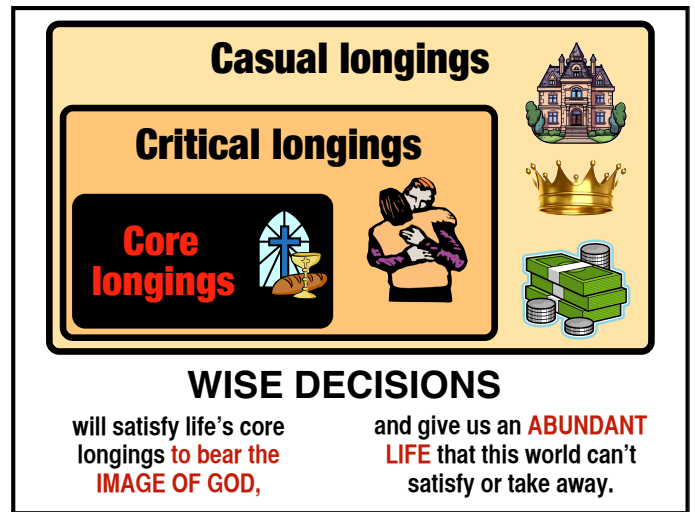
1



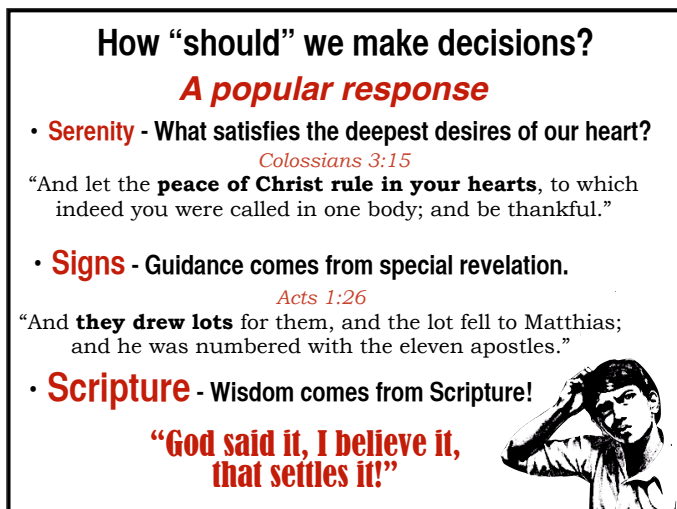
2



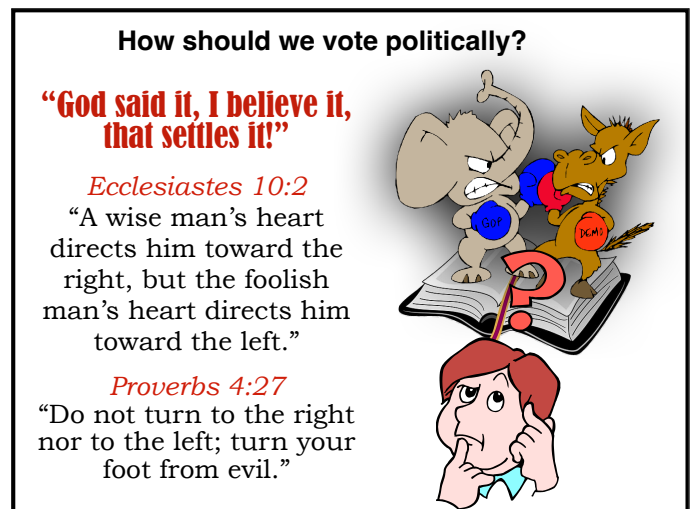
3



4



5



6

## Rightly dividing the word of truth calls for wisdom, not proof texts.

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.**”

James 1

“2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various **trials**, 3 knowing that the **testing** of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 But if any of you **lacks wisdom**, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask **in faith** without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 being a **double-minded** man, unstable in all his ways.”

7

James 1

“2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various **trials**, 3 knowing that the **testing** of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be **perfect and complete**, lacking in nothing.”

## Expectations

- Stressful circumstances in a broken world are **INEVITABLE**
  - and should be joyfully viewed as **OPPORTUNITIES** for growth in abiding faith (endurance)
  - leaving us reflecting the **IMAGE OF GOD**
  - and satisfy the **deepest DESIRES OF OUR HEART**
- (serene, secure, significant, stable)**

8

James 1

“5 But if any of you **lacks wisdom**, let him **ask of God**, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask **in faith** without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 *being double-minded* man, **unstable in all his ways.**”

## Experience

- **PETITION** God • for **WISDOM** • with unwavering **FAITH**.

Where does wisdom  
come from and what  
does it look like?



9

Hebrews 8 (Jer.31:31-34)

“10 For this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put My laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts.** And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 11 And **they will not teach, each one his fellow citizen**, and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least to the greatest of them. . . . 13 When He said, “**A new covenant**,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever **is becoming obsolete** and growing old is about to disappear.”



**The New Covenant**  
with the inner gift of  
Christ's Spirit **guiding**



**the Old Covenant**  
with its emphasis  
on outward **signs.**

10

John 5

“39 You search the Scriptures, because you **think that in them you have eternal life**; and it is **these that bear witness of Me**; 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life.”

Galatians 3

“23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. 24 Therefore **the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ**, that we may be justified by faith.”

**The Old Covenant Law**  
was not to give us eternal life,  
**but to lead us to FAITH IN CHRIST**  
whose imputed virtue would bring it to us.

11

## Old Covenant

God's Spirit is  
**WITH us!**



We learn the  
rules and try to  
live by them.

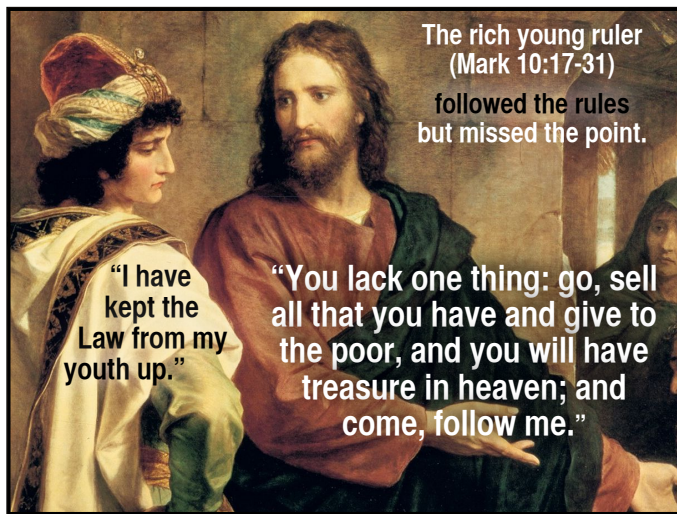
## New Covenant

God's Spirit is  
**IN us!**

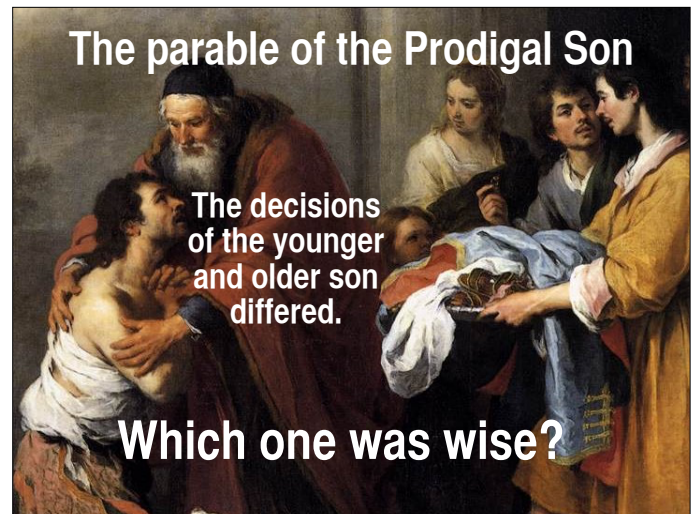


We seek to understand  
the, principles, and  
priorities of God's  
Spirit & Word.

12



13



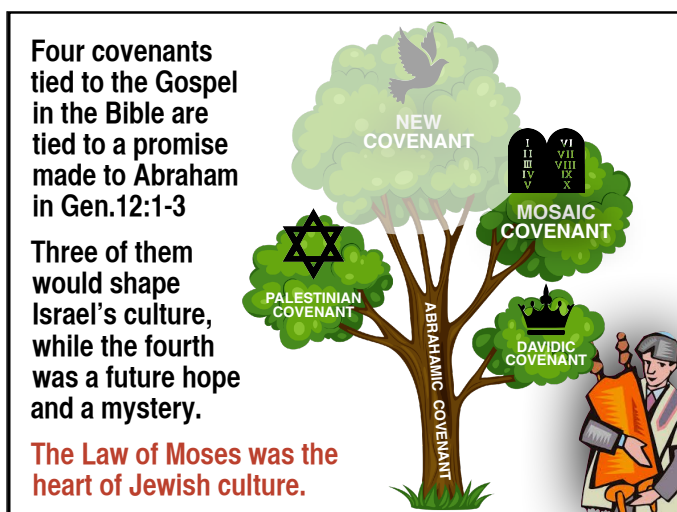
14



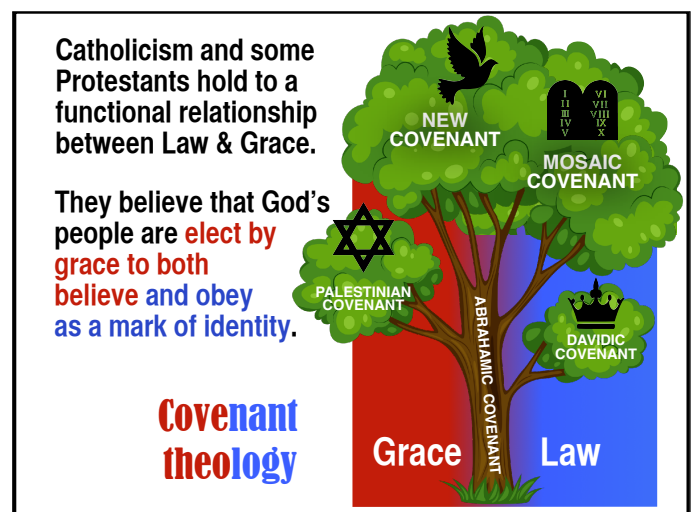
15



16



17



18

**How do many Evangelicals view these covenants?**

1. **Believers** are "true Israel"
2. **Hope** is spiritual
3. **LAW** is satisfied at the Cross.
4. **The New Cov.** fulfills the promises and no longer is in play.

**NEW COVENANT** **OLD COVENANT**

**ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**

**Body of Christ**

**Pardoned from sin** **Indwelling of Christ's Spirit**

19

*John 16*

"<sup>13</sup> But **when he, the Spirit of truth**, comes he will **guide you into all the truth**; . . . <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take of mine and will disclose it to you."

*2 Corinthians 3:6*

"who also made us adequate as servants of a **new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit**;"

*Mark 2:22*

"And **no one puts new wine into old wineskins**. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

*1 John 2:27*

"And *as for* you, the anointing which you received from Him remains in you, and **you have no need for anyone to teach you**; but as His anointing teaches you about all things,"

20

**This is illustrated in decisions made before Pentecost.**

*Acts 1*

(discerning a replacement for Judas) "<sup>24</sup> And **they prayed**, and said, "Thou, Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show which one of these two Thou hast chosen . . . <sup>26</sup> And **they drew lots** for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles."

**after Pentecost.**

*Acts 15*

(concerning the inclusion of Gentiles) "<sup>22</sup> it **seemed good** to the apostles and the elders, . . . <sup>28</sup> For it **seemed good** to the holy Spirit and to us . . . <sup>34</sup> But it **seemed good** to Silas . . ."

21

**Wisdom is a dynamic responsibility, not a search for proof texts, signs or feelings.**

*Acts 15*

"<sup>7</sup> And after there had been **much debate**, . . . <sup>28</sup> For **it seemed good** to the Holy Spirit and to us. . . . <sup>15</sup> And with this the words of the Prophets agree, **just as it is written**, (Amos 9:12)"

*1 Corinthians 6:5*

"... Is it so, that there is not among you **one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren**, but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?"

22

**Minor things can keep us from major things.**

"<sup>38</sup> Now as they were traveling along, He entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who was sitting at the Lord's word, seated at His feet. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Help me." <sup>41</sup> And the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, you are worried and bothered about these things; <sup>42</sup> but only one thing is necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.""

**Following the rules**

**ANGER**

**Anxiety**

**Wisdom**

*Luke 10*

23

**Making WISE decisions is more like following a compass than a road map.**

**Pray for**

- spiritual insight.
- a will after God's heart.
- getting and keeping the main things, the main things.
- discerning the CONTEXTS.

24

# Decision making

