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New Testament Introduction

1. A new addition - Inspired Scripture
2. A new message - The Word of life
3. A new covenant - The Biblical context
4. A new lifestyle - The Way of the Cross
5. A new nature - The Spirit of Christ
6. A new Israel - The Body of Christ
7. A new mission - The Disciple of Christ
8. A new hope - The Return of Christ

2

The Gospel is GOOD NEWS!

even though our **circumstances** in this life will fall short of the desire of our heart, and our **behavior** in this life will fall short of the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 15:19

“If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

3

New Testament Introduction

Why is the New Covenant GOOD NEWS?

1.

The way it addresses the fear of death.

Hebrews.8:13

“When He said, “A new covenant,” He has made the first **obsolete**. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to **disappear**.”

(Heb.7:12, 6:9-12, 8:6-7, 9:15-17, 10:26-31, Rom.7:4, 10:4, Gal.4:1-11, Eph.2:15, Col.2:14, Matt.27:51, Lk.22:20)

Respect the limits of the Law's rule over our behavior.

4

Romans 8

“1 There is therefore now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**. 2 For the law (**principle of operation**) of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law (**principle of operation**) of sin and of death. 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the requirements of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

The law principle exposes our sin but it does not exclude us from salvation because it is satisfied by Christ, both ceremonially and ethically.

5

2.

The depth of its affirmation & assurance.

John 14:17

“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but **you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.**”

(Jer.31:33, Ezek.36:27, Acts 2, Rom.8:2, 9-11, Col.1:27, 1Cor.6:19)

Listen to the Spirit of Christ in us, as it assures us of hope through faith (apart from moral merit) and calls us to a life of worshipful response in obedience.

6

3.
The breadth of its focus on life.

2 Corinthians 5

“16 Therefore from now on **we recognize no man according to the flesh**; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. 17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a **new creature; the old things passed away**; behold, new things have come. ... 21 He made Him who knew no sin to **be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”

(Rom.6:1-7, 8:1-8, Eph.1:3-20)

See the whole picture of our new life through the eyes of the Spirit, not the flesh (world).

7

When the Bible speaks of the final judgement it is almost always on the basis of our works, not our faith.

8

2 Corinthians 5:10

“For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

Romans 8

“1 **There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”

Galatians 5

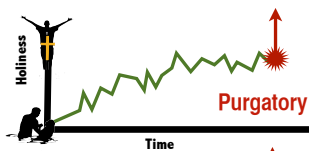
“4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit, **by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.**”

9

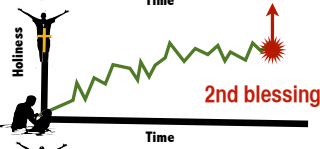
How have Christians reconciled these seemingly contradictory messages?

10

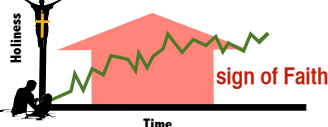
In each case believers must have good works.



The Roman Catholic perspective
(faith = works)



The Wesleyan perspective
(faith is the path to works)



The Calvinistic perspective
(faith notarized by behavior)

11

How many of our theological affirmations are punctuated with:

(!)

“MY MIND IS CLOSED.”

(.)

“I have some settled beliefs.”

(,)

“I have tentative insights.”

(?)

“I only have questions.”

We see things, not as they are, so much as the way we are.

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 shall know fully** just as I also have been fully known.”



12

Two paths

Spirit centered
Love motivated
Worship oriented

Law centered
Fear motivated
Discipline oriented

works of the Spirit
fear works

FAITH GRACE

Romans 8:15
“You did not receive the spirit of **slavery** to fall back into **fear**, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out “Abba Father!”

13

1 Corinthians 3

works of the Spirit

works of the flesh

Christ The Foundation

“12 Now if any man **builds upon the foundation** with gold, silver, precious stones, **wood, hay, straw**, 13 each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. 14 If any man’s work which he has built upon it remains, **he shall receive a reward**. 15 If any man’s work is burned up, **he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved**, yet so as through fire.”

14

1 Cor.3:10-15

The Bema judgment is not about saving grace and faith but about how we build on it.

Gal.5:16-26

“25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

works of the Spirit

works of the flesh

Christ The Foundation

15

Two levels of JUDGMENT / faith & works

Revelation 20
“11 And I saw a great white throne,...
12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books** were opened; and **another book was opened, which is the book of life;**
13 ... and the dead were judged from the things which were written in **the books**, according to their deeds....14 And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, 15 and if anyone’s name was **not found written in the book of life**, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

16

Biblical Judgments

This life	After physical death
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Government Church Discipline 	<p>all who are in Christ (the book of life)</p> <p>Bema</p> <p>Eternal destiny</p> <p>of all who stand on their own merits</p> <p>Great White Throne</p> <p>Judged on the basis of works.</p>

Christ

17

Three great IMPUTATIONS

The sin of Adam onto all humanity

The sin of the human race unto Christ

The holiness of Christ onto all who believe

The Gospel

18

**The “better promises”
of the New Covenant are
justification by faith
through the work of Christ
FOR us not IN or
THROUGH us.**

19

The screenshot shows the APTTOTEACH website with a dark green header. The logo features an apple with an open book inside. The tagline reads "A bishop then must be ... apt to teach 1 Timothy 3:2". Navigation links include "About", "Bible Insights", "Hot Topics", "Theology", and "Hard Questions". The main content area is divided into three sections: "Popular" with links to "Current Lesson: Colossians", "Current Series: Colossians", "Next Lesson", and "Previous Series: Hard Questions 2025"; "Intro to the New Testament" with links to "Current Lesson", "Series", and "Next Lesson"; and "Search". A featured article titled "Introduction to the New Testament (01) A New Addition" is highlighted with a red border. It includes a red-bordered text box with the following content: "Understanding Apostolic Teaching is key to understanding Christianity. 1. Christianity cannot be reduced to ethical purity, moralism, or social justice. 2. Justifying faith is rooted in grace alone, but not our own. 3. The New Covenant is not a doubling down on the O.C. Law but fulfilling its demands. 4. The whole Bible is written FOR us, but not always TO or ABOUT us. 5. Godly behavior is introduced by love not law." To the right of the text are icons for "LISTEN" (a speaker) and "WATCH" (a video camera).

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