

THE GLORY OF THE NEW COVENANT

The Glory of the New Covenant

Key idea:

What the Old Covenant demands, the New Covenant promises to accomplish in God's unmerited covenant people through Christ's sacrifice and priestly intercession for them.

Key text:

Hebrews 8:8-12 (ESV)

For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. ¹⁰ For this is the covenant that 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 shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

Key points:

1. The New Covenant is the foundation of the entire Scripture and distinguishes Christianity from all other worldviews.
2. The primary difference between the Old and New Covenants is the certainty of God's promises.
3. In the New Covenant, God takes on the conditions that were previously required of His people.
4. Jesus Christ fulfills all the promises of the New Covenant on behalf of believers.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the teaching? Why?

2. Devin mentioned four promises in the New Covenant. Can you name them? How do these promises impact your daily life as a believer? (For reference, the four mentioned by Devin are: Obedience to God's Law; Faithfulness to God; Relationship with God; God's Forgiveness).
3. How does understanding the difference between the Old and New Covenants change your perspective on your relationship with God?
4. The teaching emphasized that faith is not a condition of the New Covenant, but a promised result. How does this affect your understanding of salvation and assurance?
5. How does the concept of Christ fulfilling the covenant requirements on our behalf impact your motivation for obedience?
6. What are some practical implications of God placing the conditions of the covenant upon Himself rather than on His people?
7. How does the idea of God writing His laws on our hearts and minds through the New Covenant challenge or affirm your current understanding of sanctification?
8. Devin challenged believers to be "overwhelmed by the glory of the new covenant." What does this look like in practice? How can we cultivate this sense of awe?
9. How might this understanding of the New Covenant change the way we share the gospel with others?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, spend time meditating on one of the New Covenant promises each day. Journal about how it applies to your life.
2. Identify an area where you've been trying to earn God's favor through your own efforts. Practice resting in Christ's finished work instead.
3. Share the message of the New Covenant with someone who needs to hear about God's unconditional love and forgiveness.
4. Brainstorm with some others for ways to remind each other of New Covenant truths when you're struggling with doubt or legalism.