

## Tradition or Truth? The New Covenant (Part 2)

We have a covenant making God at the very center of life. The aim and goal of His covenant is that two parties might come together and function as one - "I will be their God and they will be My people." Jesus said it this way, "I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you." (Jo 14:20) Just before His death, burial and resurrection He put it like this, "...that they may be one, just as We are one... I in them and You in me... that they may be with me where I am." (Jo 17:22-24) Our Full and Perfect Savior provides a Full and Perfect salvation so that we may live with Him at the center of who we are. He intends for us to enter into and live by His life... Fully and Perfectly! Now!

Because of the righteous implanting of His life into our human spirits we already have within us whatever He may want out of us. While it may be impossible to generate or imitate the righteousness of God it is not impossible to freely receive His righteousness and learn to live from that righteousness by faith. (Ro 1:17) After all, it is "not I, but "Christ (and His righteousness) who lives in me." (Ga 2:20)

His implanted righteousness yields a relational empowering. Our relational oneness, our union with Christ grants us His power for His purposes, His strength for His assignments. (Col 1:29; I Thess 2:13; Heb 13:21) In our new covenant oneness with God He is both willing and working within us. (Phil 2:13) We may say it like this: In Christ we have a corresponding supply of His life for every directive, every temptation. (II Pet 1:3,4; Phil 4:13) The question is no longer "How can I...?", but, rather, "Who can...?" Who powerfully works? Who has this kind of strength? And, where is He?

This gracious implanting and empowering does not remove the imperative mood in our journey with God - He is always in charge, always Lord! But, it does relocate such imperatives. In our union with Christ every imperative follows an indicative - every command is preceded by a simple statement of truth. We must love because we are lovers! Tell the truth because we are truthtellers... forgive because we are forgivers... sacrifice because we are sacrificial. Christ's life in us is truth telling, forgiving, sacrificial, "and as He is, so also are we in this world." (I Jo 4:17) Any imperatives, any commands we read in the New Testament are indicators of our new creationness! To the degree we are out of step with Christ in us, we will eventually find ourselves frustrated and fatigued. However, to the degree we find ourselves in step with Christ in us we will find ourselves fulfilled and energized. It is the witness of our birthright as sons and daughters in a forever oneness with our Heavenly Father!

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## *Praise Reports & Prayer Requests*

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# GREETINGS

Thank you so much for your loving concern and many contacts during Hurricane Irma. No major damage at our place, but we were without electricity, water, gasoline, etc. for awhile. Local flooding has been and continues to be a problem for our area. As we write this we cannot go North, East, or West any more than 3-4 miles without road and bridge closures, but a southern exit toward Gainesville has been open throughout. All in all, we got off rather lightly as opposed to others in our state and in Houston (Hurricane Harvey).

In times like this, we always realize what and who we take for granted - utilities, ac/heat, 1st Responders, etc. While certainly inconvenienced and uncomfortable for a brief time, we never lacked anything pertaining to life and godliness. (One of those "holy constants" that I hope we never take lightly!)

Take some regular times this month to "Thank God for everything." (Eph 5:20) Yes, even those "uninvited angels" that bring news we'd rather not have to deal with. Start with the gift of Christ Himself and work yourself on down to the light switch that actually does something. On your way, don't forget the people who care - I know we are surely thankful for each of you and your loving concern!

# CALENDAR

## OCTOBER

6-8 Binghamton, NY (607-239-5006)  
10 Alachua Study  
15,29 CCF  
20-22 The Hill, Hardin, KY (270-437-4172)  
\*30 Ocala Study - \*note change\*

## NOVEMBER

3-5 Waverly, OH (740-947-8004)

## JANUARY

11-14 San Antonio, TX (210-478-0618)

## ♥ PRAISE and PRAYER †

♥ Thanks for safety through the storms of life

♥ Thanks for friends who care

† Opportunities to witness to the "Holy Constants"

† Proper valuation of things and people

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