

Intro to the New Testament

September 6, 2015

Old Testament

- Creation
- The Fall
- The Flood
- Nation- Israel
- God's law (10 Commandments)
- Israel goes back and forth with following and not following God
- God sends prophets to speak God's Truth, seeking to turn Israel back to God

New Testament

- Simply a continuation of the Old Testament
- Jesus was spoken of in the Old Testament (Genesis 3) so the New Testament is what the Old Testament spoke of
- Jesus' birth and life
- Jesus' death
- Jesus' resurrection and ascension
- Beginning of the Church
- Continuation of the Church

Living by the Law or living by Grace?

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. **Matthew 5:17-20**

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. **Romans 8:1-11**

Main themes throughout the New Testament:

1) It's all about what Jesus has done.

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

2) **Because it's about what Jesus has done; Jesus despises "religion".**

Religion says, "Here is what **I** can do", the Gospel says, "Here is what **God** can do and has done".

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. **Matthew 23:23**

3) **Therefore, what I do is based not on how I can get God to love me or love me more, but rather, it's based on the fact that God already loves and accepts me because of what Jesus has already done.**

We love Him because he first loved us. **1 John 4:19**. What is my motivation? God's love!

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:37-40

Why we read, study, pray, serve, give, go and on and on is because of Jesus' love not because we are trying to attain it.

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. **2 Corinthians 5:14-16**

4) **Although we know Jesus loves us and in turn we are to love Him, we are prone to wander.**

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 7:21-25

Our "**default**" is sin.

5) **A call to follow Jesus is a call to die to self.**

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" **Matthew 16:24-26**

It reminds us that it's not about us. It also reminds us that we don't live based on whim or our own desires, but God's.

This morning I challenge all of us to follow Jesus. Either for the first time or to renew our commitment to follow Him with all we have, to say Lord I need You daily, I need to know You, spend time with You and allow You to work on me!

Commit to God and His Word!