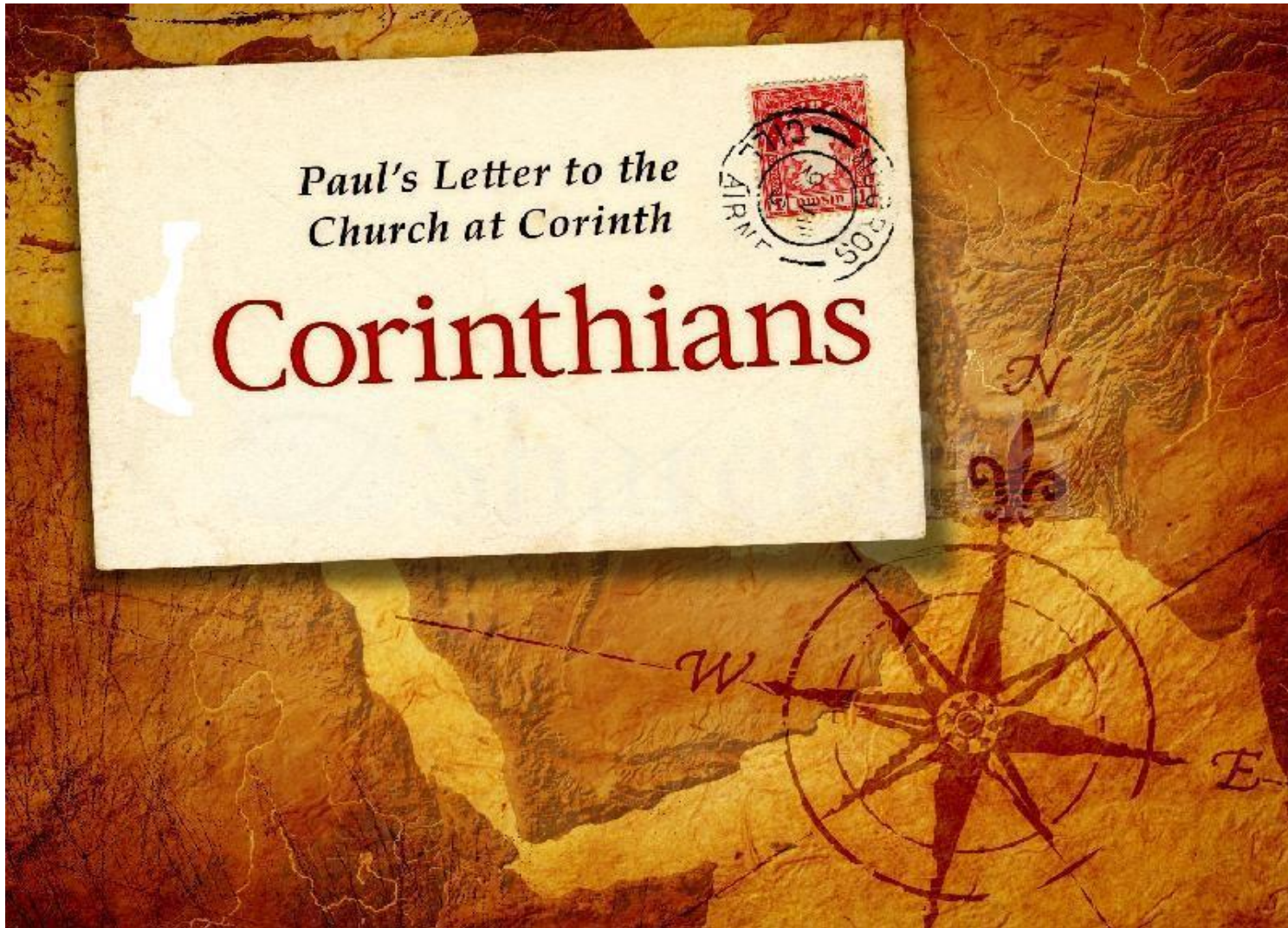


2 Cor. 3:4-6 Christ's Life and Ministry Is in His Ability, Not Ours



Outline Chp 2:14 to 3:1-16 *



Christ's life & ministry:

- is triumphant 2:14-17
- is manifested through epistlesu of Christ 3:1-3
- is in His sufficiency, not ours 3:4-6
- is not legal, but spiritual & glorious 3:7-11
- is the revealing of the glory of Christ 3:12-16

* Hal Molloy

² You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men;



You are [continuously] our letter
written [having been written] in our hearts

having been written - *engraphō* - denotes "to write in"
(perfect, passive)

- It was written in the past and remains written into the present [permanently written] in our hearts.
- You are our letter which has been permanently engraved in our hearts. Wuest

[being] known and [being] read by all men

- Both known and read are present tense continuous action.
- It is all men [none excluded] that perceive this.

³ being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.



- Paul now adds more details about these letters written in the hearts of the Corinthians and all believers.

being manifested - *phaneroō* – openly shown

- To be manifested is to be revealed or made known in one's true character [Christ's character].
- Christ is manifesting His glory through you - you are not trying to imitate Him.

Molloy

you are – *eimi* - the state in which someone or something continuously exists [permanent condition]

³ being manifested that you are a letter of Christ,
cared for by us, written not with ink but with the
Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but
on tablets of human hearts.



a letter of Christ

letter – *epistole* - a written message, a letter

- Letter identifies the subject: this is who you are, an epistle of Christ.*
- As a letter you give a message [spoken or unspoken] to those reading us.*
- The content of the message is about Christ & His glory.*
- You are those who are openly shown to be a letter which exhibits Christ. Wuest

* Molloy

Today's Verses



⁴ Such confidence we have through Christ toward God.

⁵ Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,

⁶ who also made us adequate *as* servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

4 Such confidence we have through Christ toward God.



subj/verb: we have (present tense continuous action)

dir. obj: confidence - *pepoithēsis* - persuasion, assurance, or trust

- Eph 3:11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

modifier1: through Christ

- This confidence is in our living union in Christ.

modifier2: toward God

- because of who we are in Christ



⁵ Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,

not that – negates what follows

sub/verb: **we are** – *eimi* – we continuously exist in this state

sub comp: **adequate** – *hikanos* - meaning sufficient, adequate, competent

- The adjective **adequate** describes the subject

modifier: **in ourselves**

2 Cor 2:16 to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?

5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,



to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves

- we did not contribute to becoming a letter of Christ
- not from [ek] ourselves [as a source]

but our adequacy is from God

- We are a letter of Christ by the Holy Spirit writing the person of Christ in our hearts.
- This is from [ek] God [as a source].
- This is a wonderful contrast for every believer.



⁶ who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

[It is God] **who also**

made [us] **adequate**- *hikanoō* - to make sufficient, render fit, competent [past point fact, God performed the action]

- Col 1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.
- The adjective and noun form of **adequate** was used in previous verse:
- We are not **adequate** in ourselves,
- but our **adequacy** is from [ek] God.



⁶ who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

as servants [ministers] of a new covenant

as ministers *and* dispensers of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ] Amplified

ministers - *diakonos* - denotes a servant - the servants of Christ in the work of preaching and teaching [of the Gospel]

- Christ is ministering through us a new covenant.
- 1 Cor 3:5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul?
Servants [ministers] through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one.

⁶ who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

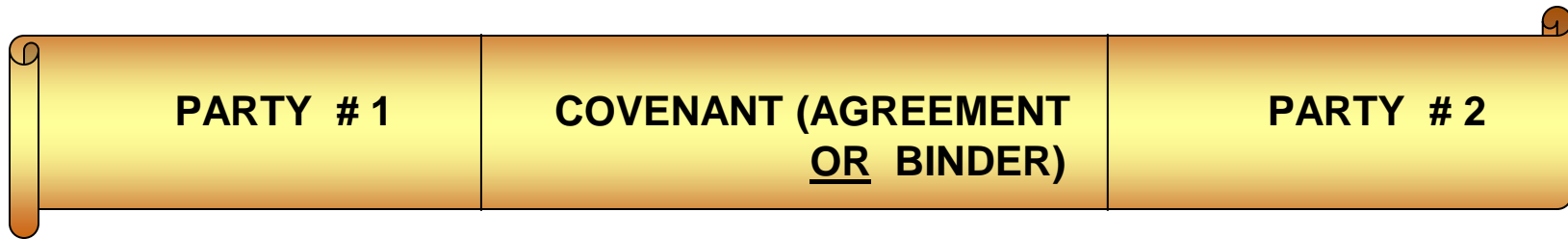


as servants [ministers] of a new covenant

Paul now takes this word [a new covenant] and applies it to his ministry [and all true servants].

Merryman

What is a covenant ?*



DEFINITION :

- A COVENANT (*DIATHEKE* = TO PLACE BETWEEN TWO PARTIES SO AS TO BIND THEM TOGETHER - e.g. MARRIAGE)

TYPES :

1. CONDITIONAL
2. UNCONDITIONAL

DURATIONS :

1. TEMPORAL
2. ETERNAL

* Molloy

More details on Biblical Covenants*



Definition:

“dia” = a preposition: it means “between two”

“theke” = from a verb which means “to put or place”

[agreement, promise, binder]

Types:

1. **Conditional**: A covenant in which man has to fulfill his responsibility before God will do His part.
If man fails in his part God is not obligated to fulfill His part.
2. **Unconditional**: A covenant in which God makes certain promises and will fulfill them in His timing and man has no responsibilities to fulfill.

Duration:

1. **Temporal** - A covenant in which the duration is limited.
2. **Eternal** - A covenant which is durative for all eternity. * Molloy

MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

BIBLICAL COVENANTS & THEIR RELATIONSHIPS

HHBC



Israel's Covenants

Church's Covenant

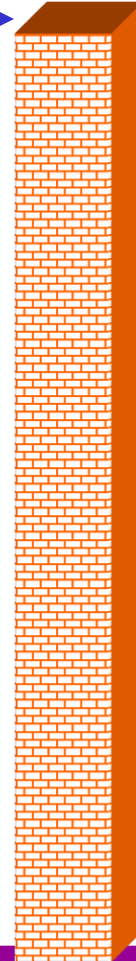
Mosaic Covenant (Old)
Ex 20:1 - 31:18

Contrast in Book
Of Hebrews

Palestinian Covenant
Deut 30:1-10
LAND

Davidic Covenant
2 Sam 7:4-16
1 Chron 17:3-15
KINGDOM
THRONE
KING
SEED*

New Covenant
Jer 31:31-34
Ezek 36:24-28
37:21-28
Heb 8:6-13
BLESSING



“Great Nation” “All Nations Blessed” “I will bless thee”
(The Jew)
Abrahamic Covenant
Gen 12:1-3; 15:7-17; 17:7; 18:18

Church's New Covenant
1 Cor 11:23-26; Mt 26:26-29
Lk 22:14-30; 2 Cor 3:6

Eternal Covenant

- Christ (seed) would shed His blood (die)
- God would raise Him up

Heb 13:20; Acts 2:22-24
1 Pet 1:18-21; Rev 13:8

*Seed = Christ (Gal 3:16; Gen 22:18)

MAJOR BIBLE THEMES



THE ETERNAL COVENANT - HEB 13:20

GOD THE SON
"THE GREAT SHEPHERD"

AGREEMENT

GOD THE FATHER
"THE GOD OF PEACE"

"...THROUGH THE BLOOD.."
(**AGREES** TO SHED HIS BLOOD
FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD)

"... THAT BROUGHT AGAIN FROM
THE DEAD OUR LORD JESUS "
(**AGREES** TO RAISE UP CHRIST)

REASONS:

- BLOOD / DEATH - WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS OF SINS - HEB 9:22
- THE RESURRECTION - WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION WE WOULD STILL BE IN OUR SINS - 1 COR 15:17
- IT'S THE PROOF THAT GOD IS SATISFIED WITH CHRIST'S WORK - 1 COR 15:1-4

MAJOR BIBLE THEMES



- **TIME: DURING MILLENNIAL KINGDOM**
- **PLACE: IN PALESTINE (ON EARTH)**
- **KINGDOM: CHRIST IS KING RULING ON DAVID'S THRONE**
- **PROMISES:**
 - **GOD WRITES LAW (OF KINGDOM) IN THEIR HEARTS**
 - **THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL INDWELL THEM**
 - **ISRAEL WILL RECEIVE EARTHLY PHYSICAL BLESSINGS**
- **TYPE: UNCONDITIONAL**
- **DURATION: ETERNAL**

MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

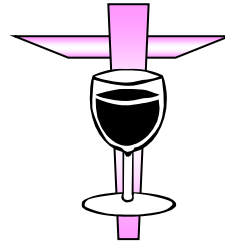


THE CHURCH'S NEW COVENANT

LORD JESUS CHRIST

COVENANT (BINDER)

BELIEVERS



1 COR 11:23-26; MT 26:26-29;
MK 14:22-25; LK 22:14-20; 2 COR
3:6

“THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD” - 1 COR 11:25

- THE CUP REPRESENTS CHRIST'S BLOOD / DEATH ON THE CROSS OF THE ETERNAL COVENANT (HEB 13:20)
- THE NEW COVENANT IS THE APPROPRIATION OF THE CUP OF THE ETERNAL COVENANT TO EVERY BELIEVER BY GOD
- THE CUP (CHRIST'S BLOOD / DEATH)
 - BINDS YOU (POSITIONALLY) TO CHRIST'S DEATH
 - YOU GROW (CONDITIONALLY) IN CONFORMITY TO HIS DEATH - PHIL 3:10 (DEATH TO SELF)
 - BINDS YOU TO CHRIST'S RESURRECTION LIFE & FELLOWSHIP



MAJOR BIBLE THEMES

THE CHURCH'S NEW COVENANT

SOME KEY POINTS

1. THE REVELATION OF THE COVENANT:

- PAUL RECEIVED IT DIRECTLY FROM THE LORD - 1 COR 11:23
- THE REVELATION WAS PERSONALLY GIVEN TO PAUL BY CHRIST - GAL 1:11-12
- IT WAS TOTALLY SEPARATE & DISTINCT FROM ISRAEL'S NEW COVENANT
 - JER 31:31-34; EZEK 36:21-28; 1 COR 10:16-18
- THE CHURCH'S NEW COVENANT WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY REVEALED

2. DEFINITIONS:

- A COVENANT (*DIATHEKE* = TO PLACE BETWEEN TWO PARTIES SO AS TO BIND THEM TOGETHER - e.g. MARRIAGE)
- THE TWO PARTIES: JESUS CHRIST & YOU (THE BELIEVER)
- THE COVENANT: "THE CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT"

3. THE ESSENCE OF THE COVENANT:

- THE CUP REPRESENTS CHRIST'S BLOOD / DEATH WHICH IS PART OF THE "ETERNAL COVENANT" (HEB 13:20)
- HE DIED AND SHED HIS BLOOD ON THE CROSS:
 - (1) FOR OUR SINS - AS OUR SUBSTITUTE - 1 JN 2:2; 2 COR 5:19
 - (2) UNTO SIN (OUR SIN NATURE) - AS OUR REPRESENTATIVE
 - ROM 6:1-10; 2 COR 5:21



THE CHURCH'S NEW COVENANT

3. THE ESSENCE OF THE COVENANT: (CONT'D)

- THE CUP IS A CUP OF BLESSING BECAUSE IT PROCURED FOR US RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LIFE (HIS LIFE) -ROM 3:21-26; GAL 3:21;1 COR 10:16
- THE NEW COVENANT IS THE APPROPRIATION OF THE CUP OF THE ETERNAL COVENANT TO EVERY BELIEVER BY GOD
- THE CUP (CHRIST'S BLOOD / DEATH) :
 - BINDS YOU (POSITIONALLY) TO CHRIST'S DEATH
 - YOU GROW (CONDITIONALLY) IN CONFORMITY TO HIS DEATH - PHIL 3:10 (DEATH TO SELF)
 - BINDS YOU TO CHRIST'S RESURRECTION LIFE & FELLOWSHIP - PHIL 3:10

4. TYPE OF COVENANT: UNCONDITIONAL

5. DURATION OF THE COVENANT: ETERNAL

6. THE LORD'S TABLE IS A REMEMBRANCE OF THE NEW COVENANT

⁶ who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.



Paul tells us in ministering this new covenant it will be as follows:

not of the letter [the Law]

- The Law speaks here of the old covenant given to Moses at Mt. Sinai.

but of the Spirit

- Rom 7:6 But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.
- Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

⁶ who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.



for the letter [of the Law] kills,

- The letter of the Law actually condemns us.
- Rom 7:9b but when the commandment came [the Law], sin became alive and I died.
- The Mosaic Law never gave life. J.V. McGee
- The Law ministers death. Chafer

but the Spirit gives [present tense] life.

- John 6:63a It is the Spirit who gives life.
- Rom 8:11b He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.
- The Spirit ministers life [Christ life]. Chafer



- There remains to be recognized a heavenly covenant for the heavenly people [2 Cor 3:6], which is also styled like the preceding one for Israel a “new covenant.”
- It is made in the blood of Christ (cf. Mark 14:24) and continues in effect throughout this age, whereas the new covenant made with Israel happens to be future in its application.
- To suppose that these two covenants—one for Israel and one for the Church—are the same is to assume that there is a latitude of common interest between God's purpose for Israel and His purpose for the Church.

Final Thoughts *



- Israel's covenant, however, is new only because it replaces the Mosaic.
- The Church's covenant is new because it introduces that which is God's mysterious and unrelated purpose.
- Israel's new covenant rests specifically on the sovereign "I will" of Jehovah.
- The new covenant for the Church is made in Christ's blood.