

SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A
MAN OF GOD, WEEK 10

TITLE: THE SUPERIORITY AND GLORY OF THE NEW
COVENANT

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 3:7-11

INTRODUCTION: (1) SINCE THE FIRST CENTURY,
RITUALISM, CEREMONIALISM AND SACRAMENTALISM
HAVE BEEN A SERIOUS THREAT TO NEW COVENANT, NEW
TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY.

* IN SUCH FALSE RELIGIOUS SYSTEMS, THE INSTITUTION
OR FALSE CHURCH BECOMES A SUBSTITUTE FOR
CHRIST, DISPLACING HIM AS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND
THE LIFE, AS THE ONLY MEANS OF SALVATION.

** IN FACT, DECEIVED PEOPLE CONNECT ONLY TO THE
INSTITUTION OR FALSE CHURCH THROUGH EXTERNAL
MECHANICAL WORKS RATHER THAN TO THE LIVING
JESUS THROUGH FAITH ALONE.

*** AND IN THOSE FALSE SYSTEMS, EXTERNAL
CEREMONIES AND VAIN REPETITIONS TAKE THE PLACE
OF INTERNAL WORSHIP.

**** THUS THE SACRAMENTS, CEREMONIES AND EXTERNALS BECOME THE MEANS OF SALVATION.

(2) AND THEIR MINISTERS CALLED BY DIFFERENT NAMES BECOME PRIESTS, INTERMEDIARIES BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND GOD, PERFORMING ALL KINDS OF RITUALS SUPPOSEDLY NECESSARY FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS AND SALVATION.

* THEIR TEACHING IS FAITH – PLUS. AND FROM THE FIRST CENTURY TO THE 21ST CENTURY, THESE FALSE TEACHERS AND RELIGIONISTS COME AS APOSTLES AND MINISTERS OF LIGHT WHEN IN REALITY THEY ARE FALSE APOSTLES AND MINISTERS OF DARKNESS.

** THEREFORE TRUE CHURCHES AND TRUE CHRISTIANS WHO BELIEVE IN FAITH ALONE MUST ALWAYS BE ON THEIR GUARD AGAINST THE RELENTLESSLY DEADLY HERESIES OF FAITH PLUS WORKS, UNDER THE CLOAK OF CEREMONIALISM, RITUALISM, SACRAMENTALISM AND WORKS RELIGION.

*** WELL, REWIND BACK TO THE FIRST CENTURY AND TO PAUL'S GREAT SORROW, THE CHURCH AT CORINTH. THEY HAD BEEN INFILTRATED BY THE DEEP PLAGUE OF

CEREMONIALISM AND WORKS RELIGION, SOMETIMES CALLED JUDAIZERS.

**** AND THESE SELF-STYLED APOSTLES AND RELIGIONISTS SOUGHT TO BRING THE CORINTHIANS, AND OTHER CHURCHES IN THE REGION OF GALATIA UNDER THE CRUSHING YOKE OF BONDAGE TO THE LAW.

(3) THEY TAUGHT THAT FAITH PLUS KEEPING THE CEREMONIES OF THE LAW LIKE BEING CIRCUMCISED, OBSERVING SABBATHS, NEW MOONS, FESTIVALS AND O.T. DIETARY LAWS AND REGULATIONS WERE NECESSARY FOR SALVATION.

* NOW FAST FORWARD TO TODAY AND WE HAVE SIMILAR ADDITIONS, YOU MUST HAVE FAITH PLUS BAPTISM, FAITH PLUS CATECHISM, FAITH PLUS CONFESSION TO A PRIEST, FAITH PLUS KEEPING THE GOLDEN RULE, ETC.

** AND IN CONTRAST TO THESE LEGALISTS IN OUR DAY, REWIND BACK AGAIN TO PAUL'S DAY AND THE BACKGROUND OF OUR STUDY TODAY.

*** FALSE TEACHERS AT CORINTH, WHOM WERE GIVING PAUL SUCH A HARD TIME CALLING HIM A LIAR, A FALSE TEACHER AND NOT HAVING ANY CREDENTIALS INCLUDING LETTERS OF COMMENDATION, WERE MINISTERS OF THE OLD COVENANT CLAIMING THAT

KEEPING THE LAW AND CEREMONIES WERE NECESSARY FOR SALVATION.

**** BUT AS WE SAW LAST WEEK IN V. 6, PAUL WAS A SERVANT, A MINISTER OF THE NEW COVENANT.

(4) BUT BECAUSE PAUL PREACHED THAT SAVING, FREEING, LIBERATING MESSAGE OF FAITH ALONE, THE FALSE TEACHERS AT CORINTH, SAVAGELY ATTACKED HIM AND WERE TRYING TO HIJACK THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH.

* AND TODAY AND NEXT WEEK, LORD WILLING, PAUL IN II CORINTHIANS 3:7-18, GIVES A RICH BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE NEW COVENANT TO DEFEND HIS APOSTLESHIP AND CORRECT ERROR THAT WAS TAKING CAPTIVE SOME OF THE PROFESSING CORINTHIANS BELIEVERS.

** THEREFORE II CORINTHIANS 3:6-18 IS A CONDENSED SUMMARY OF NEW COVENANT DISTINCTIVES, SECOND ONLY TO THE EXPOSITION FOUND IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS.

*** AND AS IN HEBREWS, HERE IN II CORINTHIANS 3:6-18, PAUL MAKES CLEAR THE SUPERIORITY AND GLORY OF THE NEW COVENANT OVER THE OLD COVENANT, IN DISARMING THE JUDAIZERS IN CORINTH TAKING PEOPLE BACK UNDER THE OLD COVENANT, THE LEGALISTS.

**** BECAUSE OF THAT, I'VE TITLED OUR SERMON TODAY, "THE SUPERIORITY AND GLORY OF THE NEW COVENANT."

(5) AND UNDER THAT TITLE AND THEME WE'LL LOOK AT JUST TWO POINTS AS PAUL USES COMPARISONS AND CONTRASTS TO SHOW THE SUPERIORITY OF THE NEW COVENANT OVER THE OLD COVENANT.

* SO NO. 1 WE'LL LOOK AT PAUL'S FIRST COMPARISON, VV. 7-9; AND NO. 2 THE SECOND COMPARISON, VV. 10&11.

** AND WITH THAT SHORT OUTLINE TO GIVE US DIRECTION, LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO LOOK AT THE FIRST COMPARISON.

I. THE FIRST COMPARISON, (READ V. 7)

A. NOW THE FIRST TWO WORDS OF V. 7, "BUT IF" OR "NOW IF" DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE, CAN BE BETTER TRANSLATED SINCE.

* AND THIS IS IMPORTANT, FOR PAUL'S ENEMIES THOUGHT PAUL WAS OPPOSED TO GOD'S LAW, BUT THAT WAS NOT TRUE.

** HENCE PAUL DISARMS HIS ENEMIES IN THEIR THINKING THAT HE IS OPPOSED TO THE LAW BECAUSE IT WAS BAD OR EVIL OR INGLOIOUS, FOR HE SAID IT "CAME WITH GLORY" IN V. 7.

*** NOW WHAT CAME WITH GLORY? THE LETTERS ENGRAVED WITH STONES, THE 10 COMMANDMENTS. FOR THE 10 COMMANDMENTS COMMUNICATE THE HOLY CHARACTER OF GOD HIMSELF, AND ARE IN ESSENCE A MORAL SUMMARY OF GOD'S HOLINESS.

**** BECAUSE OF THAT, PAUL AFFIRMED THAT THE LAW WAS FULL OF GOD'S GLORY; THAT IS PERFECTLY REFLECTING HIS RIGHTEOUS PERSON, HIS HOLY CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES.

1. BUT, BUT, UNLIKE PAUL'S SPIRITUAL ENEMIES, THE FALSE TEACHERS, THE LEGALISTS, THE JUDAIZERS, PAUL SAW THE OLD COVENANT OF THE LAW IN ITS PROPER PERSPECTIVE, AS A MINISTER OF DEATH AS WE GO BACK TO THE FIRST PART OF V. 7.

* AND THIS PHRASE, "MINISTRY OF DEATH" REFERS TO THOSE WHO RELY ON THE LAW FOR SALVATION HAS AS ITS OUTCOME – DEATH.

** TRYING TO KEEP THE LAW TO BE SAVED – SERVES UP DEATH, IT BRINGS DEATH, THE LAW OR LETTERS KILLS THOSE WHO RELY ON IT (FOR SALVATION).

*** BUT PAUL DOES NOT WANT ANYONE TO MISUNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW. THE LAW

IS NOT EVIL, IT DOES NOT CAUSE US TO SIN, IT REVEALS OUR SINS.

**** SO THE LAW "CAME WITH GLORY" AS COMING FROM GOD, IT DISPLAYS HIS HOLY CHARACTER AND MORALITY WHICH IS GLORIOUS.

2. BELOVED, THE COMPARISON OF THE LAW AND THE OLD COVENANT TO THE NEW COVENANT IS BETWEEN GOOD AND BETTER, AND GLORIOUS AND MORE GLORIOUS.

* THE GLORIOUS GOD GAVE THE LAW SO IT CAME WITH GLORY, BUT ITS PURPOSE WAS NEVER TO SAVE, BUT TO SHOW OUR SIN WHICH LEADS US TO A SAVIOR, FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, ROMANS 6:23.

** THE LAW REVEALS EVIL, IT SHOWS SIN, IT SHOWS HOW MUCH WE MISS THE MARK OF GOD'S STANDARD.

*** SO THE LAW WAS GLORIOUS, BUT FOR THOSE WHO TRY TO JUSTIFY THEMSELVES IN GOD'S SIGHT BY IT, IT BRINGS DEATH, IT WILL BRING ETERNAL JUDGMENT, IT IS A MINISTER OF DEATH.

- AS DEREK PRIME SAID IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS: "THE STRAIT EDGE OF THE LAW SHOWS HOW CROOKED WE ARE...THE PROOF OF THE LAW GIVES OF OUR SINFULNESS PROVES CRUCIAL IN OUR

CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE SINCE THE NEEDLE OF THE LAW MAKES WAY FOR THE THREAD OF THE GOSPEL.”

**** AND WHAT THE JUDAIZERS WERE COMMUNICATING AT CORINTH WAS A MESSAGE OF DEATH, THEY MISUNDERSTOOD THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW, THEY MISSED ITS PURPOSE.

3. THE FALSE TEACHERS WERE EXALTING THE LAW AT THE EXPENSES OF THE GOSPEL, AT THE EXPENSES OF GRACE, NULLIFYING GRACE, QUOTE GALATIANS 2:21.

* AND IN ESSENCE, THE JUDAIZERS BY TEACHING YOU HAD TO KEEP THE LAW TO BE JUSTIFIED OR SAVED, WERE NULLIFYING GRACE.

** BUT AGAIN BACK TO V. 7, THE LAW CAME WITH GLORY, IT WAS GLORIOUS FOR IT CAME FROM THE GLORIOUS GOD, SO PAUL BEGINS IN V.7 TO COMMUNICATE HE IS NOT AGAINST THE LAW, IT IS GLORIOUS.

*** AND TO ILLUSTRATE THE LAW'S GLORY, PAUL WENT BACK TO A FAMILIAR EVENT IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY FOUND IN EXODUS 34 WHICH WAS OUR SCRIPTURE READING EARLIER.

**** AND IT HAD TO DO WITH THE 2'D GIVING OF THE LAW TO MOSES ON MOUNT SINAI. FOR WHEN MOSES CAME DOWN FROM SINAI, AFTER RECEIVING THE LAW, HIS FACE

SHONE, THERE WAS GLORY ON MOSES' FACE PER SE, THEIR WAS REFLECTED GLORY FROM GOD, HIS FACE WAS SHINING.

4. BUT PAUL WILL POINT OUT AT THE END OF V. 7 THAT THE GLORY ON MOSES WAS FADING.

* AND THE REFLECTED GLORY IN MOSES' FACE, "FADING AS IT WAS," GET THIS, SYMBOLIZED THE IMPERMANENCE, THE TEMPORARINESS OF THE OLD COVENANT.

** THE DIVINE LAW GIVEN TO MOSES WAS GLORIOUS. AND MOSES REFLECTED GOD'S GLORY IN GOD GIVING IT TO HIM, BUT THAT GLORY WOULD PASS AWAY, GIVE WAY TO A GREATER GLORY, A GREATER LIGHT, THE NEW COVENANT, THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST WHO WOULD SIGN THE NEW COVENANT IN HIS BLOOD.

*** SO THE REFLECTED GLORY IN MOSES' FACE THAT PAUL TALKS ABOUT HERE, AN ILLUSTRATION FROM EXODUS 34, SYMBOLIZED THE IMPERMANENCE OF THE OLD COVENANT. AND LIKE THE GLORY ON MOSES' FACE, THE OLD COVENANT WAS NEVER INTENDED TO BE PERMANENT, ITS GLORY WAS A FADING, PASSING GLORY.

**** AND AS WE MOVE ON TO V. 8 AND 9 WE WILL SEE THAT PAUL WILL ARGUE FROM THE LESSER (THE OLD

COVENANT) TO THE GREATER (THE NEW COVENANT.) TO BEGIN WITH LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 8. NOW PAUL ASKS A RHETORICAL QUESTION IN V. 8 WITH THE ANSWER BEING YES. AND PAUL WILL USE THE PHRASE “MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT” AS A SYNONYM TO TALK ABOUT THE NEW COVENANT.

* SO LET ME PARAPHRASE V. 8 WITH THAT SAID: WILL NOT THE NEW COVENANT BE EVEN MORE GLORIOUS? AND THE ANSWER IS YES, IT DID HAVE MORE GLORY, IT WAS MORE GLORIOUS AS PAUL WILL COMPARE THE TWO COVENANTS.

** FOR IF THE OLD COVENANT BROUGHT DEATH FOR THOSE WHO WOULD TRY TO SAVE THEMSELVES BY IT, SURELY THE NEW COVENANT WHICH PROVIDES LIFE THROUGH THE REGENERATING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS EVEN MORE GLORIOUS.

*** FOR AS YOU GO BACK TO V. 6B, “THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE.” AND THROUGH THE MESSAGE OF THE NEW COVENANT, THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL BEING PROCLAIMED BY TRUE TEACHERS OF THE NEW COVENANT, FAITH ALONE, THROUGH THE PREACHING OF FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE, THE REGENERATING

WORK OF THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE AND PEOPLE ARE SAVED BY FAITH ALONE, NOT FAITH PLUS KEEPING THE LAW.

**** SO ARGUING FROM THE LESSER TO THE GREATER, WHICH COVENANT IS MORE GLORIOUS? THE NEW, BECAUSE “THE LETTER OF THE LAW KILLS, BUT THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE,” V. 6B.

1. AND BELOVED, AS WE TALK ABOUT THE SPIRIT HERE IN V. 8, TALKING ABOUT THE NEW COVENANT, BY THE NEW COVENANT, THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES LIFE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR ROMANS 8:2 SAYS: “THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS HAS SET YOU FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.”

* SO THE NEW COVENANT IS MORE GLORIOUS THAN THE OLD COVENANT AND PAUL MAKES THAT ARGUMENT IN V. 9, ARGUING FROM THE LESSER TO THE GREATER. LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 9. NOW NOTE IN V. 9, THE MINISTRY OF CONDEMNATION IS TALKING ABOUT THE OLD COVENANT AND THE MINISTRY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS TALKING ABOUT THE NEW COVENANT.

* NOW WITH THAT SAID, IF THE OLD COVENANT HAD GLORY, WHICH IT DID, BECAUSE IT REFLECTED GOD'S NAME AS HOLY AND REVEALED OUR LACK OF HOLINESS, OUR SIN.

** THEREFORE SINCE THE OLD COVENANT WHICH CONDEMNS US BECAUSE OF SIN, HAS GLORY, THE GLORY OF GOD'S CHARACTER, WHICH WHEN WE COMPARE OURSELVES TO HIM, WE ARE FOUND WOEFULLY WANTING, WHICH WILL BRING OUR CONDEMNATION, ULTIMATE JUDGMENT IN HELL.

*** SO SINCE THE OLD COVENANT WHICH CONDEMNS HAS GLORY NONETHELESS, HOW MUCH MORE DOES THE NEW COVENANT, WHICH BRINGS RIGHTEOUSNESS ABOUND IN GLORY, HAS MUCH GREATER GLORY, ABOUNDING IN GLORY.

**** WHICH MEANS THE NEW COVENANT FAR SURPASSES THE OLD COVENANT BECAUSE IT PROVIDES WHAT THE OLD COVENANT COULD NOT – WHICH IS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

1. FOR IN THE NEW COVENANT, GOD GIVES, HE IMPUTES, HE PUT RIGHTEOUSNESS TO OUR ACCOUNT, BY FAITH, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST.

* BUT UNDER THE LAW, THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS NO NOT ONE, ROMANS 3:10.

** SO WHAT DID GOD DO IN THE NEW COVENANT? QUOTE II CORINTHIANS 5:21.

*** AND BELOVED THE LAW CONDEMNS US, BUT IN CHRIST THERE IS NO MORE CONDEMNATION, QUOTE ROMANS 8:1.

**** AND I WANT THIS TO BE CRYSTAL CLEAR, THE LAW – THE OLD COVENANT – PRODUCES CONDEMNATION AND AS WARREN WIERSBE SAID IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS, THE LAW “IS THE MIRROR THAT REVEALS HOW DIRTY OUR FACES REALLY ARE. BUT WE CANNOT WASH OUR FACES IN THE MIRROR.” (END QUOTE)

2. BUT THE MINISTRY OF THE NEW COVENANT PRODUCES RIGHTEOUSNESS AND CHANGES LIVES TO THE GLORY OF GOD. AND OUR GREATEST NEED IS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND GOD’S GREATEST GIFT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN JESUS CHRIST. (QUOTE ROMANS 10:4)

* AND AS ROMANS 3:21 – **23 SAYS:** “BUT NOW, (UNDER THE NEW COVENANT) APART FROM THE LAW THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD HAS BEEN MANIFESTED, BEING WITNESSED BY THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS, EVEN THE

RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST FOR ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE; FOR THERE IS NO DISTINCTION; FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.”

** THEN QUOTE ROMANS 3:24 AND ROMANS 3:28.

*** AND IN ESSENCE AS WE GO BACK TO II CORINTHIANS 3:7-9, WHAT DO WE HAVE? THE GOOD NEWS OF THE NEW COVENANT, THE GOOD NEWS THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE UNRIGHTEOUS (ALL OF US) CAN BE MADE RIGHTEOUS – SAVED BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE. WOW! WHAT GOOD GLORIOUS NEWS.

**** AND THE LAW WAS AND IS GLORIOUS, BUT WHAT IS MORE GLORIOUS UNDER THE NEW COVENANT, MEN ARE REMOVED FROM GOD’S WRATH THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE.

3. THE OLD COVENANT BROUGHT CONDEMNATION, BUT THE NEW COVENANT BRINGS LIFE THROUGH THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT. HOW GLORIOUS IS THAT?

* WELL, THAT’S THE FIRST COMPARISON. NOW THE 2^D COMPARISON IS FOUND IN VV. 10&11. LOOK AT V. 10 PLEASE TO BEGIN WITH.

II. THE SECOND COMPARISON, (READ V. 10)

A. NOW THE COMPARISON BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW COVENANTS ADVANCES ONE STEP FURTHER IN VV. 10&11.

* FOR IN THE BEGINNING OF V. 10 PAUL SAYS: “FOR INDEED WHAT HAD GLORY, (SPEAKING OF THE OLD COVENANT), IN THIS CASE HAS NO GLORY BECAUSE OF THE GLORY (THE NEW COVENANT) THAT SURPASSES IT.

** NOW PAUL IS NOT CONTRADICTING WHAT HE SAID EARLIER ABOUT THE O.T. CAME WITH GLORY, THAT IT WAS GLORIOUS, BUT IN COMPARISON, PAUL IS SAYING IN V. 10, SO SUPERIOR IS THE NEW COVENANT, THAT IT IS AS IF THE OLD COVENANT HAD NO GLORY BECAUSE OF THE GLORY OF THE NEW COVENANT THAT SURPASSES IT.

*** IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS SIMPLY NO COMPARISON, THE NEW SURPASSES, LIT. TRANSCENDS, IT EXCELS BEYOND, IT PASSES WAY BEYOND THE OLD.

**** TO USE EXAMPLES WE UNDERSTAND, “THE GREATER LIGHT (THE NEW COVENANT) OBSCURES THE LESSER LIGHT (THE OLD COVENANT.)”

1. JUST AS THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF THE SUN MAKES A FLASHLIGHT USELESS, JUST AS THE MOON BECOMES INVISIBLE IN THE OVERPOWERING SUNLIGHT OF THE DAY, LIKEWISE THE GREATER GLORY OF THE NEW COVENANT DIMS THE LESSER GLORY OF THE OLD COVENANT.

* THE GLORY OF THE OLD COVENANT IS STILL THERE, WE JUST CAN'T SEE BECAUSE OF THE SURPASSING BRIGHTNESS OF THE NEW COVENANT.

** THE OLD COVENANT IS THE FLASHLIGHT, THE SHADOW, THE MOON, BUT THE NEW COVENANT IS THE BURNING BRIGHT LIGHT WHICH TAKES AWAY THE NEED OF THE FLASHLIGHT, QUOTE GALATIANS 3:24-25.

*** SO THE LAW HAS IT'S GLORY, BUT THE NEW COVENANT'S GLORY SURPASSES IT TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT IT APPEARS IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT THAT THE OLD COVENANT HAD NO GLORY, BUT IT DID, IT'S JUST HARD TO SEE IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF THE NEW COVENANT.

**** AND PAUL EXPANDS ON THIS IN V. 11. LOOK AT V. 11 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 11. NOW THE OLD COVENANT FADES AWAY WHEN ITS FUNCTION IS COMPLETE, WHEN IT HAS

PRODUCED CONVICTION OF SIN AND GOD GRANTS REPENTANCE AND FAITH.

* BUT, THE NEW COVENANT REMAINS PERMANENTLY AND WILL NEVER BE SUPPLEMENTED OR SUPERSEDED.

** AND PAUL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE LAW, THE OLD COVENANT HAD A GENUINE GLORY FOR A TIME, BUT THAT GLORY WAS A FADING GLORY AS WAS THE GLOW ON MOSES' FACE IN V. 7, WHEN HE WENT UP TO MOUNT SINAI TO RECEIVE THE LAW.

*** BUT HERE IN V. 11, PAUL DRAWS THE SIGNIFICANT CONCLUSION, HOW MUCH MORE SHOULD WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEW COVENANT REMAINS GLORIOUS AND IS MORE GLORIOUS.

**** FOR IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS THAT ANYTHING THAT GOD HAS GIVEN TO SUPERSEDE A GLORIOUS COVENANT, THE OLD, MUST EVEN BE MORE GLORIOUS, SPEAKING OF THE NEW COVENANT.

1. AND AS THE END OF V. 11 SAYS: THE NEW COVENANT "REMAINS," IT LASTS, IT IS PERMANENT.

* IT IS TO SAY, IT WILL NEVER HAVE SERVED ITS PURPOSE AND BE REPLACED WITH SOMETHING GREATER, IT WILL PERMANENTLY BE IN FORCE.

** AND THE GOSPEL MESSAGE OF SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE IS GOD'S FINAL WORD TO PEOPLE, FOR ONLY GOD CAN MAKE US RIGHTEOUS BY FAITH IN CHRIST.

*** AND UNDERSTAND, CHRIST'S SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH ON CALVARY TREE, THE CROSS HAS "OBTAINED ETERNAL REDEMPTION" FOR HIS PEOPLE, HEBREWS 9:12, MAKING JESUS THE MEDIATOR OF A NEW COVENANT, HEBREWS 9:15.

**** THEREFORE IN OUR TEXT TODAY, WE SEE THE SUPERIORITY AND GLORY OF THE NEW COVENANT.

2. AND IN PAUL'S ARGUMENT, CHIEFLY HE HAS IN VIEW THE FALSE TEACHERS, THE JUDAIZERS IN CORINTH WHO MADE THE LAW INDISPENSABLE AND EVEN SUPERIOR TO THE GOSPEL.

IN WRAP UP: (1) THE LAW IS GLORIOUS BECAUSE IT REVEALS GOD'S HOLY CHARACTER AND SHOWS THAT WE CANNOT JUSTIFY OURSELVES AND SHOWS OUR SIN AND NEED OF A SAVIOR, QUOTE ROMANS 3:20.

* AND BELOVED WE SHOULD USE THE LAW IN OUR WITNESSING TO BRING PEOPLE TO GRACE. LAW LEADS TO GRACE. LAW REVEALS OUR SIN AND LEADS US TO A SAVIOR.

** FOR WHAT IS SIN? I JOHN 3:4 SAYS: (QUOTE IT)

*** SO SIN IS BREAKING GOD'S LAW.

**** AND AFTER WE SLAY PEOPLE WITH THE LAW SPIRITUALLY, AFTER WE BRING THE LAW DOWN UPON THEIR HEADS, WE POINT THEM TO THE GLORIOUS SAVIOR AND HIS SAVING GRACE. THUS THE GOSPEL IS ABSOLUTELY GLORIOUS.

(2) AND WHEN IT COMES TO OUR WITNESSING, WHEN IT COMES TO PRESENTING THE GOSPEL, SOME OF THE GREATEST CHRISTIANS IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH UNDERSTAND THE VITAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USING THE LAW TO BRING THEM TO GRACE. LET ME GIVE YOU SOME QUOTES FROM THEM TO EXPLAIN WHAT I MEAN:

* MARTIN LUTHER – “THE FIRST DUTY OF THE GOSPEL PREACHER IS TO DECLARE GOD'S LAW AND SHOW THE NATURE OF SIN. WHY? BECAUSE IT WILL ACT AS A SCHOOLMASTER AND BRING HIM TO EVERLASTING LIFE WHICH IS IN JESUS CHRIST.”

** JOHN BUNYAN – “THE MAN WHO DOES NOT KNOW THE NATURE OF THE LAW CANNOT KNOW THE NATURE OF SIN. AND HE WHO DOES NOT KNOW THE NATURE OF SIN CANNOT KNOW THE NATURE OF THE SAVIOR.”

*** SPURGEON – “I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY MAN CAN PREACH THE GOSPEL WHO DOES NOT PREACH THE LAW.

THE LAW IS THE NEEDLE, AND YOU CANNOT DRAW THE SILKEN THREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH A MAN'S HEART UNLESS YOU FIRST SEND THE NEEDLE OF THE LAW TO MAKE WAY FOR IT. IF MEN DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE LAW, THEY WILL NOT FEEL THEY ARE SINNERS. AND IF THEY ARE NOT CONSCIOUSLY SINNERS, THEY WILL NEVER VALUE THE SIN OFFERING. THERE IS NO HEALING A MAN TILL THE LAW HAS WOUNDED HIM, NO MAKING HIM ALIVE TILL THE LAW HAS SLAIN HIM."

**** **JOHN MACARTHUR** - "EVANGELISM MUST TAKE THE SINNER AND MEASURE HIM AGAINST THE PERFECT LAW OF GOD SO HE CAN SEE HIS DEFICIENCY. A GOSPEL THAT DEALS ONLY WITH HUMAN NEED, ONLY WITH HUMAN FEELINGS, ONLY WITH HUMAN PROBLEMS, LACKS THE TRUE BALANCE. THAT IS WHY CHURCHES ARE FULL OF PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES ARE ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED AFTER THEIR SUPPOSED CONVERSION".

"MOST OF THESE PEOPLE, I AM CONVINCED, ARE UNREGENERATE AND GRIEVOUSLY MISLED. . . . WE NEED TO ADJUST OUR PRESENTATION OF THE GOSPEL. WE CANNOT DISMISS THE FACT THAT GOD HATES SIN AND PUNISHES SINNERS WITH ETERNAL TORMENT. HOW CAN WE BEGIN A GOSPEL PRESENTATION BY TELLING PEOPLE ON THEIR WAY TO HELL THAT GOD HAS A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR THEIR LIVES? SCRIPTURE SAYS, "GOD IS ANGRY WITH THE WICKED EVERY DAY" (PS. 7:11, KJV).

(3) MARTIN LLOYD-JONES - "SO THAT, FINALLY, WE CAN PUT IT LIKE THIS. THE LAW WAS NEVER GIVEN TO SAVE MAN, BUT IT WAS GIVEN AS A SCHOOL MASTER TO BRING HIM TO THE SAVIOR. THE WHOLE OBJECT AND PURPOSE OF THE LAW IS TO SHOW THAT MAN CAN NEVER SAVE HIMSELF. ONCE HE HAS UNDERSTOOD THE LAW AND ITS SPIRITUAL MEANING AND CONTENT HE KNOWS THAT HE CANNOT KEEP IT. HE IS UNDONE. . . . IT SHOWS US OUR UTTER HELPLESSNESS AND HOPELESSNESS, AND THEREBY IT BECOMES OUR SCHOOL MASTER TO LEAD US TO CHRIST, THE ONLY ONE WHO BY THE GRACE OF GOD CAN SAVE US, AND DELIVER US, AND RECONCILE US TO GOD, AND MAKE US SAFE FOR ALL ETERNITY."

* CHRISTIAN, MAY WE FAITHFULLY USE GOD'S LAW TO SHOW SINNERS THEIR NEED OF A SAVIOR IN OUR EVANGELISTIC PRESENTATIONS.

** UNSAVED, CLEARLY THE LAW CONDEMNNS YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR SIN AND REBELLION AGAINST A HOLY GOD. YOUR ONLY HOPE IS THE SAVIOR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. TURN TO HIM TODAY TO BE SAVED FROM YOUR SINS AND THE WRATH TO COME. (LET'S PRAY)

