

THREE “NEW” THINGS

I. A new covenant.

- A. You might be thinking this is not new to us.
 - 1. Hopefully, that is the case.
 - 2. As a New Testament Christian it is necessary that we understand that there is difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.
- B. Sadly, many in the world don't distinguish very well between the two covenants.
 - 1. Some still worship on Saturday.
 - 2. Some still believe we are to tithe.
 - 3. Some still believe we follow the 10 commandments.
 - 4. There are other mistaken beliefs that people have based on a misunderstanding of the two covenants.
- C. The words “covenant” and “testament” are found in the New Testament several times and are from the same Greek word.
 - 1. The word basically means a will.
 - 2. It is an agreement between two people or groups.
 - 3. As a will, a new one cannot be enforced until the death of the creator of the first.
- D. There was a need for a New Covenant because the old or first covenant had faults (Hebrews 8:7).
 - 1. Namely, it could not take away sin (Hebrews 10:1-4).
 - 2. Each year, the people were reminded of the sins they had committed in the past.
 - 3. Animal blood could in no way permanently remove sin.
- E. Because of this, Jesus came to bring in a new covenant (Hebrews 9:15).
 - 1. By this, we have eternal redemption (Hebrews 9:12).
 - 2. Jesus only had to offer Himself once, whereas, under the Old Law, every year there had to be an offering (Hebrews 9:26; 7).
- F. Because Jesus took the first away, you and I can be set apart from the world forever (Hebrews 10:9-10).
- G. We shouldn't be surprised because Jeremiah prophesied there would one day be a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34).
 - 1. The Hebrews writer quoted Jeremiah and let us know that the first was vanishing away (Hebrews 8:8-13).
 - 2. The idea of it then vanishing away was a hint at the coming destruction of Jerusalem.
- H. Jesus said that He had come to fulfill or complete the Old Law (Matthew 5:17).
 - 1. Jesus completed every prophesy of the Old Testament concerning the Messiah.
 - 2. That is why Jesus could say “It is finished” while He was on the cross.
 - 3. When His blood was shed at His death, He brought in the New

Testament with that blood (Matthew 26:28).

- I. When He died, He nailed it to the cross as Paul stated (Colossians 2:14).
- J. We have a New Covenant brought in by Jesus and it is in force today and none other arrangement is in force.

II. **A new creature.**

- A. When one is obedient to the New Covenant, he or she becomes a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - 1. Notice that the verse tells us the one who is a New Creature is in Christ.
 - 2. One gets into Christ by being baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).
- B. When one is baptized into Christ, His blood which He shed at His death washes away all that person's sins (Revelation 1:5).
 - 1. This is why Ananias told Saul to arise and be baptized and wash away his sins (Acts 22:16).
 - 2. It is the blood of Christ that purges us from our sins (Hebrews 9:14).
 - 3. It is through His death we can be sanctified from the world (Hebrews 10:10).
- C. We become a new creature because we no longer have our sins.
 - 1. They get washed away in baptism.
 - 2. We now view things differently.
 - 3. We no longer look at things through a prism of "me" but through the word of God.
 - 4. We become selfless where we were once selfish.
 - 5. We become servants of Christ and no longer servants of sin (Romans 6:16-18).
- D. Paul tells us by inspiration that nothing else matters about us in this life than being a new creature (Galatians 6:15).
- E. Being baptized into Christ allows us to become new creatures and that is really all that matters in this life.

III. **A new creation.**

- A. When one is obedient to the New Covenant, he or she becomes a New Creature who then is able to look for God's new creation.
 - 1. Peter spoke about this (2 Peter 3:13).
 - 2. John did as well (Revelation 21:1).
- B. This is a reference to a new place for those who are new creatures to dwell for all eternity.
 - 1. Both passages are in contexts that deal with the destruction of the world as we know it.
 - 2. John's passage plainly says that the first heaven and first earth had passed away and the previous chapter dealt with the destruction of the earth.
 - 3. Notice the verses previous to Peter's mentioning a new heavens and new earth (2 Peter 3:10-12).
- C. One day, this earth will be destroyed.

1. This will take place when the Lord returns.
 2. When it is destroyed, those that are in Christ shall have a completely new place in which to dwell for all eternity.
- D. John described for us in language we can comprehend what that city will be like later on in the same chapter.
1. It is a place too glorious for mere words.
 2. It will be far greater than anything our earthly languages can describe.
- E. The fact remains that only those who are obedient to the New Covenant and have become new creatures in Christ will dwell in this new creation.