

Christian Study

Lesson 252

Be Light

Focusing on Church beyond Sunday

A "Closer Look" At the "Word of God" (Continue)

The Authority of the New Testament

A Moment of Reflection

Before beginning your study, get your favorite Bible, a dictionary for new word meaning, pray and ask God's Holy Spirit to show you the truth about the New Testament.

Key verse: Hebrews 1:1-2

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world"

This Son is the Lord Jesus Christ who was with God in the beginning of the human race. This claim is written in the book of *Genesis*, **Genesis 1:26** "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." (King James version)

Even in a casual examination of the Bible, a person will find that it is divided into two sections, an Old Testament and a New Testament. It is often assumed that these designations merely refer to time, such as B.C. (Before Christ) and A.D (Anno Domini) (in the year of our Lord). However, the terms Old Testament and New Testament stand for much more. In their most important sense, they stand for the two different covenants God established with man.

On the night before His crucifixion Jesus took the cup and said, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood" A thrill of wonder and excitement must have come over the disciples as they grasped the significance of what the Lord was saying. For many hundreds of years God had said through the

prophets of Israel that He would someday make a new covenant with His people. He said, "It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers, when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant." **Jeremiah 31:32**. This new covenant would have wonderful provisions, such as the pouring out of God's Holy Spirit, and the final forgiveness of sins.

Later, the writers of the New Testament explained how the Old and New Covenants differ, and how God used them both in His plan to redeem mankind through Jesus Christ. According to the apostle Paul, in **Galatians 4:1-7** "But now to continue---the son who will receive his father's property is treated just like a slave while he is young, even though he really owns everything. **2** While he is young, there are men who take care of him and manage his affairs until the time set by his father. **3** In the same way, we too were slaves of the ruling spirits of the universe before we reached spiritual maturity. **4** But when the right time finally came, God sent his own Son. He came as the son of a human mother and lived under the Jewish Law, **5** to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might become God's children. **6** To show that you are his children, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who cries out, "Father, my Father." **7** So then, you are no longer a slave but a child. And since you are his child, God will give you all that he has for his children." The Law (Old Covenant) was like a servant appointed as guardian over a small child. The servant was responsible for the discipline of the child.

2 Peter 1:20-21, gives us the exact way God reveals His word to man, through Scripture and the reason the scripture is made known to us in **2 Timothy 3:16**

2 Peter 1:20-21 "knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." **2 Timothy 3:16** "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,"

The superiority of the Bible over human philosophy is that it was revealed by God the Father through God the Holy Spirit who looks at everything and makes us understand the things that are freely given to us by God. This truth is found in **1 Corinthians 2:10-12** "these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the deep things of God. **11** For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. **12** Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God."

Given to the Apostles

Jesus Himself told His disciples that everything that they had, the earth that is so beautifully made and even Heaven will not be here forever, but His word will last for ever. **Chapter 21** of Luke's gospel gives us the words direct from Christ Himself. **Verse 33** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away," and since Christ is God, we should not place our confidence on the things of this world but rest confidently in His word the will not pass away

The works of the Holy Spirit

These are the things that the Holy Spirit would do for the apostles in **John 16:12-15** "I have a lot more to tell you, but that would be too much for you now. 13 When the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into the full truth. He won't speak on his own. He will speak what he hears and will tell you about things to come. 14 He will give me glory, because he will tell you what I say. 15 Everything the Father says is also what I say. That is why I said, 'He will take what I say and tell it to you."

John 14:25 "I have told you this while I'm still with you. However, the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything. He will remind you of everything that I have ever told you." I want us to notice that the passage says that the Holy Spirit is a person and most important He will remind them of "EVERYTHING." The word everything here is a synonym for the word ALL we have talked about in earlier lessons and we know what ALL means. It means ALL

Luke 24:46-48 "He said to them, "Scripture says that the Messiah would suffer and that he would come back to life on the third day. 47 Scripture also says that by the authority of Jesus people would be told to turn to God and change the way they think and act so that their sins will be forgiven. This would be told to people from all nations, beginning in the city of Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses to these things."

The Response to the Apostles teaching

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy did not stop thanking God on behalf of the Thessalonians for accepting the gospel of Christ as words that came from God and not from men **1 Thessalonians 2:13** "Therefore, we also give thanks to God without ceasing: because, that when you had received of us the word of the hearing of God, you received it not as the word of men, but (as it is indeed) the word of God, who worketh in you that have believed." Their response to the Word of God

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7 "And you became followers of us and of the Lord: receiving the word in much tribulation, with joy of the Holy Ghost: 7 So that you were made a pattern to all that believe in Macedonia and in Achaia."

Two examples of how the Word of God affected individuals in different points of their lives. A lady named Lydia in **Acts 16:13-15** "And on the Sabbath day we went forth without the gate by a river side, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down, and spoke unto the women that were come together. **14** And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple of the city of Thyatira, one that worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened to give heed unto the things which were spoken by Paul. **15** And when she was baptized, and her household, she said to us, saying, If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us" and a Philippian jailer in **Acts 16:32-34** "They spoke the Lord's word to the jailer and everyone in his home. **33** At that hour of the night, the jailer washed Paul and Silas' wounds. The jailer and his entire family were baptized immediately. **34** He took Paul and Silas upstairs into his home and gave them something to eat. He and his family were thrilled to be believers in God."

We also see that that the early Christian believers who gladly received the good news of the gospel preached by the apostles continued in a steady direction, devoting themselves to their teaching... **Act 2:41-42** "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. **42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." These new converts were in one accord, breaking bread from house to house, praising God, and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved

It is no secret, what God can do. What He's done for others, He'll do for you.

Our mission is to help people find strength and security on the foundation that can never be shaken, cracked or shattered. This foundation is the remarkable truth of God's unconditional love and His indisputable grace experienced in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The critics of Christianity have launched a full attack to discredit the person and works of Jesus Christ and the reliability of His word. We cannot be silent anymore. Let us as children of light, stand firm in the faith, because He who has taken us this far will never forsake us. You are called Christians, be careful of that name. Let not our Lord Jesus Christ be blasphemed on your account

Believe this, "Jesus did not come to make bad people good, He came to make dead people live."

Keep It Simple

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.

If you have any questions, comments or you know anybody else who will benefit from this study please feel free to give us their email address and they will be added to our mailing list to receive weekly lessons. The email address is

santigiemandol@yahoo.com,

Remember: A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle (Ephesians 5:8)

Let's go light another candle!