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In this month's text we read: *"For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people" (Hebrews 8:7-10).*

Let me begin by asking you a couple of questions: Are you losing hope in your current situation? Do you long for a better arrangement? Perhaps you need a fresh start at work, with family, relationships, or your personal life because you have felt trapped in old patterns.

I was once told by a pastor that a rut was nothing more than a grave with both ends kicked out. I never forgot that statement because it is easy to become trapped in a rut before one recognizes their situation.

The Book of Hebrews addresses these kinds of circumstances. Because the Hebrews failed to honor their side of God's covenant, Jehovah promised a new covenant through the many prophets and sages of old. What the old covenant failed to do, the new covenant would bring

**OLD PATTERNS BROKEN:
A NEW WAY OF THINKING**

to fruition. We read, *"For what the law could not do (was incapable of), in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemn sin in the flesh" (Romans 8:3).*

Let it be noted that Christ was not sinful in His flesh but was manifested in the likeness of sinful flesh. We understand this truth, *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).*

Christ had no Adamic nature in His earthen vessel because He was not conceived by an earthly biological father from the line of Adam but by the Holy Ghost. Thousands of years of Jewish history were built upon God's covenant with Israel. But Christ came to rewrite the script of history. He offers in His death, burial, and resurrection a superior covenant rooted in better promises.

It is hard to imagine the Holy Ghost inspired the apostle Paul to declare the first covenant had a fault. In other words, the law had a fault in that it did not provide a means for righteousness. Christ took upon Himself man's sin and consequently became blamed for our sins. Read it again, *"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:3-4).*

It is hard for me to imagine God

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the Father would place our sins and iniquities upon His Son, Jesus Christ. However, as believers, we should strive to be blameless in our lifestyle. Because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross, Paul the apostle declared: *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).*

It is hard to imagine that, as believers, we can be presented to God the Father without blame. The only reason this is possible is because, when the Father looks upon the redeemed, He sees us through the shed blood of Christ Jesus our Lord. Man has no righteousness except it be the righteousness of God. We are told, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:5-7).*

Therefore, the old patterns must be done away with and new thinking must be applied. The apostle Paul reminds us how important it is that our minds be renewed: *"And be renewed (transformed) in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:23-24).* If, as believers, we never allow the Holy Ghost to renew our minds, then it is difficult for our minds to be changed or mentally renewed. Again, we

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read: *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith"* (Romans 12:1-3).

As believers, our minds must be renewed constantly. The Greek word for **"renewing"** is *anakainosis* (#342, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*) which means a renovation that makes a person different than in the past, to renew qualitatively. This renewing of our mind must be ongoing so we do not become conformed to this present world. Regretfully, many today are allowing the world to conform them; rather than choosing to conform to Christ and being made in His image and likeness. The word **"transformed"** in Greek is *metamorphoo* (#3339, *Strong's*) and it means to change, transfigure, or transform. In the Christian, this refers to a continuing invisible process taking place and having preeminence in their life in this present age until we die or Christ returns.

The prophet Jeremiah saw this new covenant and how it was without blame for both Jews and Gentiles: *"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall*

be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

What a message, revelation, and insight the prophet Jeremiah was afforded regarding this covenant!

Everyone can have a fresh start. Bondage to the old, seemingly unbreakable patterns can be broken and replaced. But first, we must confess our condition and accept God's provision, including His agenda for divine change, which allows us to have a fresh start in our lives.

The apostle John tells us how this change takes place: *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess (acknowledge) our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us"* (1 John 1:8-10).

Do you appreciate the privilege and joy of confessing your sins to God the Father through Christ our Lord? It is through acknowledgment that the guilt and burden of sin are removed from the life of a sinner or backslider – when a believer misses the mark. What a beautiful statement the Holy Ghost-inspired penman wrote: *"... not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"* (Romans 2:4). What joy in having a godly conscience so when we have sinned or erred and missed the mark, the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, comes along quickly to help us find repentance through

the blood of the Lamb!

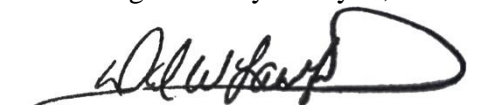
Once we accept Christ as our Savior, the patterns of the past are negated and done away with, if we continue to abide in His Word and His Word abides in us. Jesus himself declared: *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing"* (John 15:5).

The psalmist King David understood the power of the Word of God and how it keeps the believer clean: *"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee"* (Psalm 119:9-11). The psalmist clearly defines two principles here: the Word of God would cleanse him and if the Word of God remains in his heart, the Word would not suffer him to sin against the Lord.

It is never too late to break the old patterns and begin a fresh start in Christ our Lord. It is a terrible thing to sin and grieve the Holy Ghost, but it is far worse to abide in our sins and never seek repentance. If you will yield yourself to God's Word, the Holy Ghost will always lead you to repentance regarding any sin in your life. Certainly, our Lord is a willing Savior to all who call upon His name.

Let me say from the bottom of my heart, we are very grateful and thankful for your love and support for the ministry. You are allowing us to touch the hearts of many here in these last days. Please be faithful unto the end of all things.

Serving faithfully with you,



David W. Lankford
Pastor / Evangelist