

Consider the New Covenant and what it does with regard to dead, condemned, guilty, ungodly, profane sinners. Is it conditional, or is it unconditional? Is there something which the sinner must do in order to become a partaker of the New Covenant, or is God the doer of it all? Must the sinner first amend his life before he can partake of the terms of the New Covenant and receive life? Must he first believe before he receives eternal life? Is the sinner required to do anything in order to receive the grace of life?

‘[P]roper speaking, it [the gospel] commands nothing: no, not even *believe, trust, hope in the Lord*, and such like. But it reports, declares, and signifies to us what God in Christ promises’ what he will do, and is about to perform. All prescription of duty belongs to the *law*.’ *Glad Tidings to Perishing Sinners, or The Genuine Gospel, A Complete Warrant for the Ungodly to Believe in Jesus*, Abraham Booth, p.15

I had an opportunity to listen to a brother in Christ deliver a message which centered on the text of Jo.5.24. It reads,

Joh 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

This brother was using literature which guided the lesson that he was giving. (I think using literature for lesson preparation cripples the Christian because by it we fail to learn for ourselves and ask relevant questions along the way. We trust the writer too much. The writer can be a very sound man, very devoted to Christ and the truth of His word, but that is no substitute for studying the Bible for ourselves apart from every other man, friend or foe.

The writer of the lesson, using this text, superimposed an *if*, a condition into the text. *If* you believe you can have life and not come into condemnation. Now had the brother been reading the Bible for himself he would never have insert a condition into the text. Why? Because it isn’t there. John 5.24 is a statement of fact. Jesus tells us that this is the way it is for such an one which hears His word. There is no condition attached to it. It is a matter of fact that the one who hears

and believes the word which Christ speaks has life, and shall not come into condemnation. The introduction of a *condition* destroys the new covenant. It introduces works for salvation, whether we do works of righteousness or believe it is a work in order for us to be partakers of the new covenant. There is no condition to the new covenant! **There is no condition to the new covenant.** It is an *unconditional* covenant. Those who receive the blessings of the life of Christ have received them by a sovereign bestowal of God. Look at how God's word describes the new covenant.

Heb 8:8 For finding fault with them,

Ro.8.1 ¶ There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 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:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

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:

9 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.

*10 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:***

11 *And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: **for all shall know me**, from the least to the greatest.*

12 *For **I will** be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*

Did anyone read of a single condition in this new covenant?

*Jer.31.31 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:*

32 *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:*

33 *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.*

34 *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.*

Again, there is no condition attached to this covenant in order for God to do as he will with those that He brings into the new covenant. And this covenant act is reiterated in the Bible time after time after time.

Heb 7:24 But this (Jesus Christ) man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Wherefore **he is able also to save them** to the uttermost **that come unto God by him**, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. (How do those come to God: they come by Him. By the power of Christ working in them they come to God.)

Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 **Which were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**.

Properly, this text reports that those which were born of God received Him. As many as received Him were born of God. So, yes, it says that those born of God received Christ. The new birth is not conditioned upon receiving Christ, but tells us as a matter of fact that those born of God receive Christ; these are the sons of God and these are those which do believe.

Jn.3.27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

The very next text says the same thing.

1Jo 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed (gifted) upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Notice again the language of the new covenant in the book of Titus. What conditions have sinners upon them in order that God might work in them eternal life? Grace, is God's unmerited loving favor bestowed. Grace preempts every act of the sinner; the sinner has no warrant for grace! Grace is free!

*Tit 3:5 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;*

6 Which **he shed on us abundantly** through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

7 That **being justified by his grace**, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Ja.1.17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

18 **Of his own will begat he us** with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

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Eph.2.8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Grace is free:

Ro 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus ...

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Ro 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

gift of righteousness means there was no righteousness before God to be found in the sinner.

The religious system of man whether completely Pagan or under a guise of Christianity strives to be accepted with God on their own terms. But God takes sinners as they are, dead in trespasses and sins, undone, ungodly, and unrighteous, and provides everything he needs to live, believe, fellowship, and spend an eternity with Him ... and that complete provision is found in His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who came, born of a virgin, through testing showed Himself to be God come in human flesh, suffered at the hands of sinful men, was nailed to a cross for the imputation of the sins of His elect, died, was buried in a borrowed tomb, and on the third day was raised from the dead and lives forever more. And everyone that receives Christ, everyone that believes in Him doesn't receive life, but reveals to all that he has received *the grace of God, and the gift by grace*, life everlasting.

The new covenant is an unconditional covenant in Christ's blood which is shed for the sins of His people.

Lu 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

He paid the full price for our pardon, plus and minus nothing. Are you that sinner for whom Christ died? Do you see yourself as ungodly, unjust, unworthy, without hope of everlasting life? If not, He didn't die for you. He didn't die for the self-righteous, worthy, whole, and godly among men. These are they which stood apart from Christ, which hated Him, and persecuted Him. But He died for sinners. Christ came to save His people from their sins. These see in Him the Savior of the world!

Isa 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

This can only be understood in terms of an unconditional covenant. There is no condition for which God waits for us to do anything before He bestows His free, exceeding abundant grace upon sinners. That's the new covenant.

*1Ti 1:14 And **the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love** which is in Christ Jesus.*

15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

file: Documents/Bible Libraries & Studies/Misc/ new covenant/181028-1The New Covenant is an Unconditional Covenant – Craig Thurman