

A NEW COVENANT

Michael Pickford

In light of the New Year, we're using this section for a few weeks to remind us of some new things in the Bible.

The Hebrews writer wrote in Hebrews 8:13, "In that He says a new covenant, He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away."

The Old covenant is the Law of Moses. This was a law given to regulate and rule the people of Israel. It no longer serves as our authority in religion, having been made obsolete by the Lord's death on the cross (Colossians 2:14). It does however

serve many useful purposes for us today.

Without the Old, it would be difficult to comprehend the New. From the Old Testament, we learn from the examples of those who lived under it the importance of obeying God, and the tragedies involved in disobeying Him. "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition..." 1 Corinthians 10:11.

But when it comes to serving the Lord, and finding out what we have authority for in religion today, we are to appeal only to the New Testament, the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9), the "Perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25).

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

EVERYONE WELCOME!

- www.defendthegospel.com
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Children's Class, 2nd & 4th Sundays, 5:30 pm
- 5th Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm, Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

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SELF-EDITING

Michael Pickford

I often find myself editing something; a sermon, an article, a bulletin. One edits a work in order to remove the bad things; grammar, misspelled words, poorly constructed sentences. What about spiritual self-editing? (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Language. Paul said, "But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth" (Colossians 3:8). Put them off! Edit them out!

Strong's defines the Greek word for "Blasphemy" as "vilification (especially against God):--blasphemy, evil speaking, railing." Using God's name in a casual way, or speaking evil of Him and His name, has always been loathed by Him (Exodus 20:7). Today, His name has been reduced to "OMG" among many internet users. Edit it out! The Greek for "Filthy Language" is defined by Strong's as "vile conversation: -- filthy communication." Dirty jokes, "cussing," sexual innuendo, etc would fall under this category. Paul said "Put it out of your mouth." Edit it out!

Leisure. Leisure is freedom from the demands of work or duty. We all need a break from time to time. We

need to relax, to recuperate, and to recharge. The problem is with how some spend their leisure time. Some go to movies that contain vile things such as filthy language, fornication, and the glorification and normalization of homosexuality. Others listen to music or play games that contain the same things. "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes" (Psalm 101:3). Edit it out! Some spend their "Off time" going to beaches filled with the immodestly dressed, sometimes even joining in with the immodesty. Edit it out! There are many ways to entertain ourselves without having to resort to the base things of a sinful world.

Loyalty. There are some who are trying to serve the Lord with an unhealthy or divided eye (Matthew 6:22-23). Jesus said "No one can serve two masters" (verse 24). We must be willing to sacrifice anything and everything for the Lord Jesus. Some let their work, their play, their friends, and/or their families hinder their faithfulness to the Lord. Edit it out! Jesus said regarding some of these things "He who does not take his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:38).

So, do you need some self-editing?

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THE DEATH PENALTY

Michael Pickford

The Bible teaches that God Himself instituted the death penalty. To the proper authorities, He delegates the right to kill. It was a lawful practice during the Patriarchal age and the Mosaic age.

During the Patriarchal age, God said, "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed." He gives a reason for it, "For in the image of God He made man" (Genesis 9:6). Under the Mosaic age, God said "Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death." (Ex. 21:12). Murder wasn't the only reason to put a man to death. The "death penalty" was to be practiced in cases of bestiality (Ex. 22:19), adultery (Deut. 22:23, 24), rebellious sons (Deut. 21:18-21), etc. Some were "deserving of death." (Deut. 21:22).

How does God view the death penalty today? Just as in the Patriarchal and Mosaic ages, God delegates the right to kill to the governing authorities of our age - the Christian age. Paul said of the "Governing authorities" in Romans 13:4, "He does not bear the sword in vain." Romans 13:1-7 gives reasons

why God gave this authority to the government.

The recipients of this letter didn't understand a sword to be something a parade is led with, or a child's toy, or an artifact to be displayed in a museum. To them, the sword was an instrument of death (Acts 12:2), something used to kill someone either by running them thru or removing their head. When Paul said "He does not bear the sword in vain," he meant, "He does not kill them in vain." God gave governments the right to kill, not to murder, but to kill. There is a difference.

Just as under the Old Law, there were (and are) some deserving of death. Paul recognized this in Acts 25:11, "For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not refuse to die." In this statement Paul recognized three things: 1) God has given the authorities the right to put to death those who deserve it. 2) There are some who deserve it. 3) He was not one who deserved it.

When practiced justly by the Governing authorities, the death penalty is commended by God. 🔍

READING A WILL

When a Will is read, heirs listen with diligent concentration; but what of the Will of Christ? As Christians, we are heirs of God (Romans 8:17). The New Testament is Christ's last Will and Testament (Hebrews 9:16-17). Do we listen to it with as much delight as worldly heirs listen the Will of their deceased? God's word should be sweet music to our ears, for it is filled with precious promises that far outweigh any earthly inheritance. We are heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:14)



SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

Satanic Theatrical Productions

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

STUDY DAILY!
Acts 17:11

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Chris Meade
Reading: Matthew 6:1-4
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Brad Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader..... Ben Reagh
- Invitation.....Ben Green

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

Home Bible Studies Available Upon Request!