

The Two Covenants

(A summary of Andrew Murray's book "The Two Covenants and the Second Blessing" ch 1-12)

The New Covenant was Ratified

The starting point to see that the New Covenant (NC) replaced the Old Covenant (OC) is to recognise that the NC originated in the blood sacrifice of Jesus. He notified us of this fact through his disciples.

Mark 14:24 (NKJV) – *"This is My blood of the new¹ covenant, which is shed for many.*

If we don't understand that a new blood covenant was officiated and commenced with Jesus' death, then any further study into the topic is futile.

NOTE: With this study, we need to see the NC as the title-deed of our inheritance. It contains our benefits – the riches we have now on Earth as our possession as sons of the Living God.

The New Covenant Fits in with Creation

On top of that, the foundation in understanding the NC is located in God's proposal to make humans in his own image.² Mankind was his crowning glory – i.e. the original Adam, not Adam and Eve who came out of the original Adam. This image and likeness included the power of free will, self-determination and freedom to be self-made – i.e. to make themselves into whatever they were to become.

In God's relationship with humanity, he was to take the initiative and to be their source of life. They were to be the recipients of this life, as well as the dispenser of the life that was bestowed to them. Man's dependence on God was not forced onto him because it had to be a deliberate and voluntary choice. This gave it moral worth in its compliance with man's likeness to God, and at the same time it would be a true blessing to him.

An understanding of man's relationship and stature before God helps us understand the need for 2 covenants.

*"In the first, the purpose was that man's desires and efforts might be fully awakened. Time would be given for him to make full proof of what his human nature, with the aid of outward instructions and miracles and means of grace, could accomplish. When his utter impotence, his hopeless captivity under the power of sin had been made plain, there came the New Covenant, in which God would reveal how man's true nobility and Godlikeness was to be found in his absolute dependence upon God's being and doing all within him."*³

Covenantal Responsibilities

It's important to understand that in a covenant between 2 people or 2 people groups, the covenant is permanent and binding, but that it ceases when one of the parties breaks the terms of the agreement.

NOTE: God always keeps his covenant.

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NKJV) – *"Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;*

1 – NU-Text omits *new* in Matthew's and Mark's account, but not Luke's.

2 – Genesis 1:26

3 – Andrew Murray (2005) "The Two Covenants", CLC Publications: Fort Washington, PA p:11

Isaiah 54:10 (NKJV) – *For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,” Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.*

Jeremiah 32:40 (NKJV) – *And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me.*

God Only Keeps Covenant with those who Love Him

Contrary to what most Christians believe today, God only keeps covenant with those who love him and obey him. Daniel knew this:

Daniel 9:4 (NKJV) – *And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, “O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,*

Man Cancelled the Old Covenant

Men usually fail with their part of the agreement. When they do, the covenant is broken and ceases to exist, along with all its benefits. There is also the punishment required to be paid for breaking the agreement.

Jeremiah 31:32 (NKJV) – *not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.*

Jeremiah 11:10 (NKJV) – *They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers who refused to hear My words, and they have gone after other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers.”*

Jeremiah 22:9 (NKJV) – *Then they will answer, ‘Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshiped other gods and served them.’”*

Ezekiel 16:59 (NKJV) – *For thus says the Lord GOD: “I will deal with you as you have done, who despised the oath by breaking the covenant.*

Ezekiel 44:7 (NKJV) – *When you brought in foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in My sanctuary to defile it—My house—and when you offered My food, the fat and the blood, then they broke My covenant because of all your abominations.*

Isaiah 24:5 (NKJV) – *The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.*

“In every covenant there are two parties. And the very foundation of a covenant rests on the thought that each party is to be faithful to the part he or she has undertaken to perform. Unfaithfulness on either side breaks the covenant. It was thus with the Old Covenant. God had said to Israel, “Obey My voice, and I will be your God” (Jer. 7:23, 11:4). These simple words contained the whole Covenant. And when Israel disobeyed, the Covenant was broken. The question of Israel’s being able or not to obey was not taken into consideration: disobedience forfeited the privileges of the Covenant.”⁴

4 – Andrew Murray (2005) “The Two Covenants”, CLC Publications: Fort Washington, PA p:22

The New Covenant Promised in Jeremiah

God promised through Jeremiah that he would make a new covenant. Why? Because the old one had been broken by Israel & Judah..

Jeremiah 31:31, 33 (NKJV) – *“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah...this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

Hebrews⁵ shows that our NC promises in Jesus are the same as the new covenant that was promised to Israel through Jeremiah. It includes the laws of God written on our hearts by the Spirit of God as we experience the power of the NC salvation.

This new covenant in Jesus’ blood was accepted by the 1st church as fulfilment of the one prophesied by Jeremiah. Accordingly, they gave up animal sacrifice because Jesus’ death had paid the price eternally for their sins. They lived under this NC because they were all Jews. They thought it was a new agreement just for them as they were God’s special people. It was an enormous surprise to them when gentiles began to come into the church⁶ through Paul⁷, and they resisted it. When they realised that they exhibited the signs of the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit,⁸ they had to rescind their initial idea of a Jew-only covenant and welcomed the gentiles into their ‘family’⁹. This Jewish misunderstanding of the NC may have been partly to blame for the Judaizers wanting the gentiles to follow Torah and Jewish customs – they thought it was a covenant between God and the Jews. But the NC was for “many”¹⁰, and that was to include all humanity.¹¹

The Covenantal Allegory

Important also is to keep in mind Paul’s analysis of the OC and NC as allegorized by the women who bore children to Abraham.

Galatians 4:23-24a (NASB) – *But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and the son by the free woman through the promise. This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants:*

Abraham’s sons were born to 2 separate women, Sarah and Hagar. Ishmael was born of a slave woman, out of the ‘flesh’ and the will of a man, and lives only for a time in his father’s house before being cast out. He represents the OC. Isaac was born of a free woman, the loved wife, out of promise and the power of God, becoming the heir of all his father's estate. He represents the NC. This was the symbolic picture that Paul gave to the Galatians which showed them their life of trusting in the ‘flesh’ and in their religion was out of line.

The Reason for Two Covenants

A clear understanding of the reasons for the 2 covenants is essential for our understanding of what the NC actually means to us. Without this understanding we may operate in both covenants.

In dealing with his own special people, it was God’s decision to have 2 covenants. This wasn’t an arbitrary decision, but it was made for good and wise reasons, because it could not be any other way. It wasn’t the result of a mistake, but of the fallenness of the nature of humanity.

5 – Hebrews 8:7-13

6 – Acts 10:45

7 – Acts 9:15

8 – Acts 10:44

9 – Acts 11

10 – Mark 14:24

11 – This paragraph of notes are my thoughts. This are not part of the book summary. [LDS]

These covenants represent 2 stages in God's dealings with mankind and the 2 ways we can serve God. The two can be described as: a lower or elementary OC of preparation and promise; and a higher or advanced NC of fulfilment and possession. As we understand the excellent nature of the NC we can enter into everything that God has planned for us.

The 2 covenants develop out of the interaction between God and man where each party has the opportunity to carry out what their part of the agreement is. In the OC, men had the opportunity to prove what they could do with God's gracious help. That covenant concluded because they failed to prove their faithfulness.

*"In the New Covenant, God is to prove what He can do with man, as unfaithful and feeble as he is, when He is allowed and trusted to do all the work. The Old Covenant was one dependent on man's obedience, one which he could break and did break (Jer. 31:32). The New Covenant is one which God has promised shall never be broken, for He Himself keeps it and ensures our keeping it. He makes it an everlasting Covenant."*¹²

What the Old Covenant Achieved

It's often a question that's asked, "How could God institute a covenant that he knew man could not keep?" The answer to this question shows us the whole nature and objective of the OC. All forms of education, whether it's spiritual or secular, deals with students on this principle: 'Faithfulness in little things is essential to move to attaining what is greater'. With the OC, God took Israel (his people) into a training regime where he dealt with them as fallen men, but in whom there was: (i) a conscience to judge between right and wrong; (ii) a heart that was capable of being stirred to long for God; & (iii) a will to choose good and to select God.

The OC via the Law brought an understanding that all sin is evil in God's sight, bringing a curse on the guilty.

Romans 3:20 (AMP) – *For no person will be justified [freed of guilt and declared righteous] in His sight by [trying to do] the works of the Law. For through the Law we become conscious of sin [and the recognition of sin directs us toward repentance, but provides no remedy for sin].*

Romans 7:13 (NKJV) – *Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.*

Romans 4:15a (NKJV) – *because the law brings about wrath;*

Galatians 3:10a – *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse;*

The OC and the Law showed the misery of sin and its work in the here-&-now, producing eternal ruin. It also showed the power of sin, binding humanity into hopeless slavery, and for the need to be rescued by divine intervention as the only hope. So the OC is known as 'the ministry of condemnation and death' because the Law and its curse was the dominant feature of it. This is despite there being grace available and the covenant having its own glory¹³. The OC was indispensable in preparing for the NC, but insufficient in producing redemption.

"The two great lessons God would teach us by it are very simple. The one is the lesson of sin, the other the lesson of holiness. The Old Covenant attains its goal only as it brings men to a sense of their utter sinfulness and their hopeless inability to deliver themselves. As long

¹² – Andrew Murray (2005) "The Two Covenants", CLC Publications: Fort Washington, PA p:10
¹³ – 2 Corinthians 3:9-10

as they have not grasped this, no offer of the New Covenant life can lay hold of them. As long as an intense longing for deliverance from sinning has not been achieved, they will naturally fall back into the power of the law and the flesh. The holiness which the New Covenant offers will terrify rather than attract them—largely because the life in the spirit of bondage appears to make more allowance for sin, because obedience is declared to be impossible. The other is the lesson of holiness. In the New Covenant the Triune God promises to do all. He undertakes to give and maintain the new heart, to place His own Spirit in it, to give the will and the power to obey and do His will. As the one demand of the first Covenant was the sense of sin, the one great demand of the New is faith that one's need, created by the discipline of God's law, will be met in a divine and supernatural way. The law cannot work out its purpose unless it brings a man to lie guilty and helpless before the holiness of God. There the New finds him, and reveals that that same God accepts him and makes him a partaker of His holiness.”¹⁴

NOTE¹⁵: Righteous Jews pre Jesus' death stayed in a spiritual place known as 'Abraham's Bosom'¹⁶ until Jesus' blood freed them of the curse of sin. Therefore the OC was waiting for the New for completeness.

The New Covenant and the Heart

It's actually on the condition of a person's heart – the new heart God gives them – that the NC life hinges.

Jeremiah 24:7 (NKJV) – *Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.*

To rightly appreciate and enter into the fullness and blessings of the NC, a believer must come to the point where they concede that it is impossible for them to do everything that God demands of them. It is here that they begin to appreciate the NC promise and becomes willing to wait on God to do everything in him.

God's promise of the NC through Jeremiah had some important components:

Jeremiah 31:33-34 (NKJV) – *But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.*”

“I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts”: This speaks of a believer's disposition – the love, the will, the life. With our free will, God can only put things in our heart and mind if we allow him to. Actually it takes more than that. It requires God entering us through his Spirit, taking possession of us, securing our affection and allowing him to control our whole being. The divine life of the Kingdom achieves this and allows him to place the spirit of his law into our whole being. This is the beauty of the NC compared to the old and its law-abiding requirements.

Failure to Live in the New Covenant

If the NC is to be our wonderful life, why do so many Christians fail to experience it? The answer: unbelief! Everything is achieved in the NC by faith, so unbelief cancels the NC benefits.

We know that man's relationship with God at creation is reclaimed by the NC. However, God doesn't compel us in any way whatsoever. He can only achieve what he needs to achieve of his purposes if our

¹⁴ – Andrew Murray (2005) “The Two Covenants”, CLC Publications: Fort Washington, PA p:14-15

¹⁵ – LDS

¹⁶ – Luke 16:22-23

heart is willing to accept his offers. Surrender is the only way we'll learn how to live the NC life, along with rejecting human reasoning and human experience.

Instead of living in NC life, full of liberty through the Spirit of God, Galatians shows that believers can still live under the OC as slaves. How does this happen? A spirit of legalism – basically a religious spirit – influences the believer, even though they have some spiritual knowledge and an experience of the grace of God. How is this observed? Answer: **The absence of true NC life.**

The contrast in a believer's life of the 2 covenant shows up in 3 ways:

1. The Law and its activities – as opposed to the hearing of faith;
2. The 'flesh' and its religion – as opposed to the crucified 'flesh'; &
3. The inability to always do good – as opposed to a life of liberty and power of the Spirit.

Faith working by love is the hallmark of the NC life – not rules, regulations, religion and legalism.

Can it be any plainer that the Spirit-led life frees us from the Law?

Galatians 5:18 (NKJV) – *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

Yet, almost every believer today makes the same mistake as the Galatian believers. They do not learn immediately at their conversion that they only stand, live and walk by faith, while being led by the Spirit of God. They don't receive the teaching to be dead to the Law and alive to the Spirit. It seems that existing believers, who are themselves legalistic, create the natural expectation that new believers will naturally adhere to the Law as their duty. They don't know that in the NC the laws of God are written on our hearts, and that his divine power enables us to keep them. They don't understand that they are bound to a living person, not the Law, and that their obedience and holiness are only possible by their unceasing faith, so that he can work it in them.

The religious nature was quite obvious in the Galatian church, as was the absence of the spirit-led life of freedom and victory. Their lives were full of bitterness, envy, hatred, and they were biting and devouring one another. The religious flesh and the sinful flesh have the same origin – the enemy. In a religious community, selfishness and worldliness are side-by-side with legalism and religious activity. This is because the religion of the flesh cannot conquer sin.

Galatians 5:16 (NKJV) – *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

We may be trying to grow spiritually and to fit in with God's will, but fail continually, because a hidden root of evil is present – i.e. religion and legalism. The root of spiritual bondage and the legal spirit of self-effort hinder the faith and humility that is required to please God. This spirit is found where there is great zeal to serve God and for earnest prayer, however, it is evident by the lack of rest due to faith. Sin abounds there as well because there is no liberty of Christ which makes us free. That's because: where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty¹⁷.

“If the New Covenant is to be better than the Old—if it is to be an everlasting Covenant, never to be broken—it must make some sufficient provision for securing the obedience of the Covenant people. And this is indeed the glory of the New Covenant, the glory that excels—that this provision has been made. In a way that no human thought could have devised, by a stipulation that never entered into any human covenant, by an undertaking in which God's infinite condescension and power and faithfulness are to be most wonderfully exhibited, by a supernatural mystery of divine wisdom and grace, the New Covenant provides a guarantee, not only for God's faithfulness, but for man's too! God Himself undertook to secure man's part as well as His own. It is crucial to understand this. It is because this essential part of the New

17 – 2 Corinthians 3:17

Covenant so exceeds and confounds all human thoughts of what a covenant means that Christians, from the Galatians downwards, have not been able to see and believe what the New Covenant really brings. They have thought that human unfaithfulness is a factor permanently to be reckoned with as something utterly unconquerable and incurable, and that the possibility of a life of obedience with the witness from within of a good conscience and from above of God's pleasure is not to be expected. They have, therefore, sought to stimulate the mind to its utmost by arguments and right motives, and have never realized that the Holy Spirit is to be the unceasing, universal, all-sufficient worker of everything that has to be wrought by the Christian.”¹⁸

The great sin of Israel under the OC was the way they grieved God by limiting him. There is the same danger for this sin to manifest under the NC. When this happens, **it makes it impossible for God to fulfil his promises**. Our task to prevent this is to invite Holy Spirit to teach us about the NC so that we honour God by believing what his NC has for us.

The Secret of the New Covenant

The hidden secret of the NC is that divine power carries out the will of God in the hearts of men. The main part of this action is the placement of his Spirit in our hearts. This allows us to walk in his statutes and to be careful to observed his ordinances¹⁹. God removes the heart of stone and replaces it with a heart of flesh that is tender, living and loving, and that is also conducive to his will.

“A heart in perfect harmony with God, a life and walk in His way—God has pledged in covenant to work this in us. He undertakes for our part in the Covenant as much as for His own. This is nothing less than the restoration of the original relationship between God and the man He had made in His likeness. He was on earth to be the very image of God because God was to live and to work all in him; and he was to find his glory and blessedness in thus owing all to God. This is now the exceeding glory of the New Covenant, of the Pentecostal dispensation, that by the Holy Spirit God could again be the indwelling life of His people and so make the promise a reality: “I will cause you to walk in My statutes.” With God's presence secured to us every moment of the day (“I will not turn away from them”); with God's “fear put into our heart” by His own Spirit, and our heart thus responding to His holy presence; with our hearts thus made right with God—we can, we shall walk in His statutes and keep His ordinances.”²⁰

The NC is designed to provide the power to cease sinning, which the OC couldn't. If you appropriate the NC in that way it will open up for you all that it has for you. That attitude will produce in you the humility and the total dependence on God that will allow him to provide all that he has promised in the covenant.

2 Corinthians 3:2-3, 5-9 (NASB) – *You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts...Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory.*

18 – Andrew Murray (2005) “The Two Covenants”, CLC Publications: Fort Washington, PA p:22-23

19 – 2 Kings 17:37

20 – Andrew Murray (2005) “The Two Covenants”, CLC Publications: Fort Washington, PA p:23-24

Man failed to do what the OC required, but in the NC, God does everything for us.

1. With the OC there was a veil over the hearts of men: In the NC the Spirit is present to provide full sight.
2. The OC only convicted of sin: The NC cleanses the heart of iniquity.
3. In the OC a man's heart was the problem: In the NC God puts his love and law in our hearts.
4. The OC demanded obedience: The NC causes us to desire to walk in obedience.
5. The NC allows us to walk in ways that please God.
6. The Spirit that indwells the NC believer changes them into the likeness of our King.
7. The OC had no power: The NC has the mighty power of the Spirit of the Living God available to every believer.
8. The work of Christ on the cross provides the renewed heart which is the temple of God.
9. The Holy Spirit teaches us all about the NC and he arouses in us thoughts and desires to align ourselves with God.

So, we can't help but succeed – if we have faith and trust in God.

The New Covenant Transaction

When something is purchased on Earth, the purchaser gains full ownership once the transaction is complete. Despite its value and love by the original owner, it is gone forever from their possession.

The blood of the NC is Christ's redemptive blood. It purchased us totally from the power of sin and the Law.²¹ We have been redeemed out of our old natural life, which was under the power of sin, forever. Sin therefore has no power over us unless we give it authority due to our ignorance, unbelief or half-heartedness. Our NC birthright enables us to stand in the freedom that Christ purchased for us.²²

But...unless we accept and desire the redemption and liberty for which we were purchased, and unless we claim it completely and desire its security, we can never live the NC life.

Jesus, our New Covenant Guarantor

A guarantor is someone who guarantees that something will be faithfully undertaken by another person.

Jesus 'The Son' is the guarantor of the NC. As God-man, he stands as evidence that God will do his part of the covenantal agreement, He also provides Father God the assurance that we will meet our part of the bargain as well.

To live successfully in the NC we must know what Jesus makes certain for us. He makes our faithfulness and Father's faithfulness equally sure. The more we know him and trust him, the more we will be convinced that the NC promises and demands will be fulfilled.

Jesus also guarantees that his redemption is eternal and sufficient. He's already done everything that's necessary to put away sin and to free us from its power. His death, blood, resurrection and ascension is completely adequate. He is surety that we are sons, members of the realm of Heaven, and that divine righteousness and acceptance are definitely ours.

IMPORTANT: The thing that God wants us to trust in and for which he made the NC as an oath, is that everything that needs to be done, has been done for us.

21– 1 Peter 1:18-19

22 – Romans 8:2; Galatians 5:1; John 8:36

Our BIG Mistake

NB: It's Father's delight to bring you into the NC and also into the NC life.

“I think some of us are beginning to see what has been our greatest mistake. We have thought and spoken glowingly of what Christ did on the cross, and does on the throne, as Covenant surety. And we have stopped there. But we have not expected Him to do great things in our hearts. And yet it is there, in the heart, that the consummation of the work on the cross and the throne takes place; in the heart the New Covenant has its full triumph. Our Guarantor is to be known not by what the mind can think of Him accomplishing in heaven but by what He does to make Himself known in the human heart. There is the place where His love triumphs and is enthroned. It is with the heart that we must believe and receive Him as the Covenant surety.”²³

Yet, despite all of Father's promises to us, there are still many who look at the benefits of the NC life, but are afraid to trust themselves to his grace to bring it about for them. They know it requires great faith to appropriate this life, but they believe theirs falls far short. So, an insurmountable barrier stands before them that prevents them from inheriting the promises.

Let me make it perfectly clear: the faith to enter into NC life doesn't require power – it requires weakness, fear and trembling, as of “a little child”²⁴. It doesn't require our strength, only his.

Many Christians have a religious servitude of God constructed from the teachings of man. The NC life is unknown to them. They try to serve him without minute-by-minute contact with him and without his presence that will keep them from sin. They may diligently and faithfully read their Bible, and listening to sermons on Sundays, but they don't seek for the NC life of intimate relationship with the Living God.

Stuck in the Old Covenant

Possibly the main reason many Christians never come out of the OC is because they never realize that they are in it. This arises from too much head knowledge and no desire to wait for the power of the Spirit to work in their heart.

Another possible reason is that the NC hasn't been contemplated as a whole so that it compels them to embrace it. It is not seen as true obedience and fellowship with God. It doesn't enter into their mind that this is the state for which humanity was created, and that the NC has restored it to us as a counteraction to the effects of The Fall.

An understanding of the shift in obedience is also required. The OC God's favour depended on the obedience of the people – “If you obey, I will be your God”. In the NC, God provides for our obedience – “I will put my Spirit within you and you will keep my laws”. We must understand the the OC showed that we needed to be holy and showed how to be so, but the NC inspires love and gives us the power to be holy. What a difference in our attitudes we need to make.

Bondage to the Old Covenant

Within the epistles of Galatians, Romans and Hebrews there is ample evidence that a NC person can be held in bondage to the OC. This bondage is the cause of much feebleness among Christians because the OC's spirit of bondage has mastery over them. It requires spiritual insight, wholehearted acceptance and a living experience of the NC and its promises so that we can walk as God desires us to in these Last Days.

23 – Andrew Murray (2005) “The Two Covenants”, CLC Publications: Fort Washington, PA p:38

24 – Matthew 18:3-4

The OC was necessary to stimulate man's desires, to call him into action, to deepen his reliance on God, to display his sinful nature and his spiritual impotence, and so prepare him for Christ's salvation. In this way the OC watched over us and prepared us for the NC.

Galatians 3:23-24 (NKJV) – *But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

“To understand the Old Covenant properly we must always remember its two great characteristics: the one, that it was by divine appointment, accompanied by true blessing, and absolutely indispensable for the working out of God's purposes; the other, that it was only temporary and preparatory to something higher, and therefore absolutely insufficient for giving the full salvation that man needs if his heart or the heart of God is to be satisfied.”²⁵

A New Covenant Error

Many Christians make a serious mistake with their understanding of NC responsibilities. Because free grace takes the place of the covenantal requirement of obedience, many act as though obedience is no longer important. This is a disastrous error.

The OC was to teach that absolute obedience is indispensable for receiving God's favour. The NC doesn't negate that, or replace obedience, but obedience is achieved through faith instead. This comes about because the heart delights in obedience and it is given the power to achieve it. It is an abuse of grace if grace is seen as a substitute for obedience. Any boast in the higher privileges of NC are then futile.

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25 – Andrew Murray (2005) “The Two Covenants”, CLC Publications: Fort Washington, PA p:13