

New Things 1 Peter 1:3-5

Introduction:

New things have a way of intriguing all people, both young and old.

New products and new things are continually flooding the market.

Some people spend all their time just looking for something new.

Luke said, "All the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling and hearing something new" (Acts 17:21).

The insatiable curiosity of the Athenians allowed Paul to address them about the past, present, and future work of the one true God (Acts 17:24-31).

The Bible speaks of things new and old.

I. The Bible Reveals that we Live Under a New Covenant.

A new covenant or New Testament refers to the same thing; the phrases are often used interchangeably.

A new covenant was promised in the Old Testament.

In Jeremiah 31:31, the prophet informs the people that the LORD has declared, "Behold, days are coming...when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."

This same prophecy is quoted in the New Testament.

Hebrews 8:7-13

Moses mediated between God and the Israelites the old covenant.

That covenant was ruined by Israel's sin (v. 9).

Finding fault with them (the people), God said He would put in place a new covenant.

The old covenant of law and sacrifice needed to be replaced.

With Christ Jesus as the mediator of the new covenant, new and permanent peace was established between God and humankind.

The Bible reveals that the purpose of the old covenant was to bring man to Christ.

Galatians 3:23 and 24 state, "But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith."

The Law points out sin; it serves as a teacher and guide to bring us to Christ our Savior, who saves us from sin.

The old covenant has been replaced by the new covenant.

Galatians 3:25 asserts it this way, "But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."

The superior agreement mediated by Christ is "a better covenant which has been enacted on better promises" (Hebrews 8:6).

In Hebrews 8:13 the Bible says, "When He said, 'A new covenant,' He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear."

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 3:10 and 11 "For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it. For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory."

Having been raised by Christ spiritual people have been released from the Law of Moses (Romans 7:4-6).

The old covenant was dedicated by the blood of animals as explained in Hebrews 9:15-22.

Moses took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop to cleanse the people, the book, the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

This cleansing did not take away sins.

The new covenant was dedicated by the blood of Christ.

He gave His own blood once, “to put away sin” (Hebrews 9:26).

As Jesus said, “for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins” (Matthew 26:28).

Moses was the mediator of the old covenant and Christ is the mediator of the new covenant.

While Moses met with the LORD “forty days and forty nights, he did not eat bread or drink water;” What he did was write “on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments” (Exodus 34:28).

Jesus is “the mediator of a new covenant” (Hebrews 12:24).

The apostles were ministers or servants of the new covenant (2 Corinthians 3:6).

Thus, all people now live under a better covenant with better promises, known as the new covenant, revealed in the New Testament.

II. The Bible Teaches that we Have a New Way to approach God.

This new way to approach God is described as a new and living way through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Believers have confidence to enter the presence of God “by the blood of Jesus” (Hebrews 10:19 and 20). [Read Hebrews 10:19-25.]

Christ pointed out that man offers many ways to Heaven, “teaching as doctrines the precepts of men” (Matthew 15:9).

But Christ said He is the only way to the Father in John 14:6; “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

Believers no longer need someone like Moses or a priest from the tribe of Levi to approach God; believers can approach God directly because of what Christ did as the mediator of a new covenant.

Christ offers the way to the Father, but He also offers a new day and a new way to worship.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John attest that Jesus rose from the dead early on “the first day of the week.”

So, the disciples came together “on the first day of the week” to break bread (Acts 20:7) and share in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16).

Jesus highlighted how believers approach God in worship when He said, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24).

This new way to approach God must be according to the truth.

Truth makes one free (John 8:32).

Truth is the sayings of Jesus that will judge all men “at the last day” (John 12:48).

Old Testament worship practices do not work in New Covenant worship because of the new way to approach God.

III. The Bible Explains there is a New Birth.

Before one can undergo the new birth, there must be a desire for righteousness.

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6).

Those who desire to be right with God, "like newborn babies" who desire milk, will "grow in respect to salvation" (1 Peter 2:2).

The new birth is necessary to see or enter the kingdom of God.

Jesus told Nicodemus, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

In John 3:5, Jesus told Nicodemus, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

There are two parts to this new birth, born of water and the Spirit.

The new birth is not a physical birth (John 3:4).

The new birth is a spiritual birth (John 3:6).

The new birth is brought about by the word of truth.

James explains, "In the exercise of (God's) will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures" (James 1:18).

Peter instructed those who had been born again, "you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God" (1 Peter 1:23).

This new birth is referred to by various phrases in the New Testament.

In Matthew 18:3 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

"Converted" translates a New Testament word meaning to turn, turn around, undergo a transformation or a change of position or action.

The humbleness of a child allows a little one to change.

Submission to the new birth is doing "the will of [the] Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

True disciples are marked by obedience in doing the will of the Father.

False disciples are condemned for saying they do His will but do not obey Him.

The new birth "transferred us to the kingdom of [God's] beloved Son" (Colossians 1:12 and 13).

"The Father...qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son."

In the son, "we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (v. 14).

The new birth is accomplished in baptism; Acts 2:38 says, "Repent, and each of you be baptized [immersed in water] in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

The new birth accomplished in baptism puts a person in contact with Jesus and secures forgiveness of sins.

The new birth also connects the obedient person with the Holy Spirit, who is given as a gift when the person repents and is baptized.

Unless a person is born again, he cannot see or enter the kingdom of God.

Application:

The New Covenant informs all people about the new way to approach God through the new birth.

Which law do you want to live under; one that was made obsolete, that faded away by the surpassing glory of a new covenant, and could not take away sins, or a covenant that was built on better promises, which does not fade away, and takes away the sin of all who respond to it with obedient faith?

If our pursuit is of the newest and greatest, then the New Covenant should intrigue us.

Conclusion:

[Read] 1 Peter 1:3-5

God the Father, “according to His great mercy,” gave us a new covenant to show us the new way to approach Him through the new birth.

Have you been “born again to a living hope”?

Salvation is guaranteed by the resurrection of Christ.

Salvation is kept in heaven so that it does not perish, become defiled, or fade away.

Salvation is protected by the power of God for those who have been “born again to a living hope.”

In John 3:16-21, Jesus drew this conclusion for Nicodemus about salvation and condemnation:

The Father gave His Son, and the Son gave His life (v. 16).

This was not done to condemn sinners but to convert sinners (v. 17).

Those who reject Christ will be condemned (vv. 18-20), while those who accept Christ receive salvation (vv. 18 and 21).

Are you ready for new things?

Obey the new covenant by the new and living way in a new birth, as we stand and sing.