

I
CONFESS

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After writing “What is so bad about God’s Holy Days?” in 2017-2018, I can no longer ignore them with “a good conscience” 1Peter 3:16.

I remember, way back before we started keeping the Sabbath in 1997, we had a red book called ‘Facts of Faith’. I did not read that book until after we kept the Sabbath. That book recorded a lot of Christians keeping the Sabbath throughout history since the days of the apostles.

But it also recorded many Christians keeping the yearly Sabbaths, which always puzzled me, if Christ had abolished them. But I kept these things and pondered them in my heart. (Luke 2:19)

But I had to study it out for myself after that controversy began at a camp-meetings in the fall of 2013. I read all the feast-opposer’s literature I could get a hold of in that movement to see where they were coming from and what scriptures they used. I was curious and I wanted to be fair. The more severe the opposition came, the more I had to study. So, I thank our Heavenly Father for allowing the opposition.

It seems to me that some of the speakers from that camp meeting have put themselves on the same platform with most Sabbath-opposers; separating the two covenants into two different time periods in history, rather than two different life experiences in each individual in the history of mankind; and then tying certain laws to the old covenant and throwing them out.

That idea seems to cause many people to think that God separated law and grace, the law and the gospel, works and faith, righteousness by works and righteousness by faith, born of the flesh and born of the spirit, under the law and under grace, bondage and freedom, etc. into two different time periods.

It is true that “the Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers” Deuteronomy 5:2,3. The covenant is based on man’s promises and efforts. God said: “If ye will obey my voice indeed”, Exodus 19:5, “and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do...and be obedient”. Exodus 24:3,7; 19:8; Deuteronomy 5:27. This is called the “first”

or “old” covenant, which was not “faultless”, “for finding fault with **them**”... “because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord”. Hebrews 8:6-9.

So, Israel as a nation “according to the flesh” (Romans 9:3-4) was under an old covenant legal system trying to please God by their own works, from Sinai to the destruction of Jerusalem. But that was not the experience that God wanted them to stay in. And “a remnant” did take hold of His covenant (Isaiah 56:4-6) and allowed Him to give them a new heart and spirit (Ezekiel 36:26-27) and write His law in their heart (Psalm 37:30-33; Isaiah 51:7) which is the new covenant experience (Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10) and they “shall be saved” Romans 9:27.

“For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel”... That is, they which are the children of the flesh these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.” Romans 9:6,8.

“But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law.” Romans 9:31,32.

“What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for: but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded” Romans 11:7.

Many people think the new covenant is another covenant that did not exist before the death of the Messiah. But Scripture calls the “blood of the new testament” (Matthew 26:28) also “the blood of the everlasting covenant” (Hebrews 13:20) showing that it is still the same covenant.

Yes, the everlasting covenant becomes a new covenant to all of us who had our experience in the old covenant (including “the house of Israel and Judah” Hebrews 8:8) and are now born of the spirit, believe God, and allow Him to write His law in our heart, and cause us to walk in His statutes (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

The new commandment to love one another in John 13:34 is not another commandment that did not exist before, “but that which we had from the beginning”, 2John 5 and was written in Leviticus 19:18. But it is a new commandment for us who were in darkness

and hated our brethren and have come to the light and now love the brethren (1John 2:7-11).

Again, the first or old covenant is based on man's promises and efforts; the everlasting or new covenant "was established upon better promises", Hebrews 8:6, which are God's promises and we must accept them by faith. God promised and swore to Abraham and He cannot lie. Hebrews 6:12-20.

Paul makes it clear in Galatians 4:21-31 that the nature or experience in the two covenants is not limited to certain periods of time in this world's history. He uses Abraham's two sons as an allegory to describe man's sinful nature and experience in the first birth and his spiritual nature and experience in the new birth. And he says: "these are the two covenants".

"Now we, brethren, **as Isaac was**, are the children of promise. But as **then** he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the spirit, **even so it is now**."

The Nature and Experience in the Two Covenants, also called

**First
Old**

and

**Second
New, Everlasting**

Under the law
By a bondmaid
By works
Born after the flesh
From Sinai
Bondage
Earthly Jerusalem

We, as Isaac was
By a free woman
By promise
Born after the spirit

Free
Heavenly Jerusalem

Persecutor
Shall not be heir

Persecuted
Shall be heir

Galatians 4:21-31

“For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were Free from righteousness”
Romans 6:20

“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh”

“For to be carnally minded is death”

“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the **law of God** neither indeed can be”

“But they that are after the spirit the things of the spirit”
“But to be spiritually minded is life and peace”

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God”

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of children (Martin Luther) whereby we cry, Abba, Father”

“And if children, then heirs; Heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ”

Some of the promises in the Everlasting Covenant are fulfilled daily, “for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth”; Isaiah 54:9 (Genesis 9:9-17).

“While the earth remaineth seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” Genesis 8:22. This includes His kindness, peace, and mercy (Isaiah 54:10).

David found all his salvation and all his desire in the everlasting covenant (2Samuel 23:5).

“God; Who hath **saved** us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our own works, but according to His own purpose and **grace**, which was given us in Christ Jesus **before the world began**” But is now made **manifest** by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to **light** through the gospel.” 2Timothy 1:9-10.

So, it is clear that “the blood of the everlasting covenant” was effective in the lives of all mankind who believed the promises of God; all the way from the fall of Adam to the end of the world.

The promise that God would give “all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession” to Abraham and to his seed after him, is included in the everlasting covenant (Genesis 17:7-8; 48:4; Nehemiah 9:7-8; Psalm 105:8-11) and will reach its final fulfillment on the new earth, after the desolation of this old earth (Isaiah 13:5-13; 24:17-23; Jeremiah 25:33; 4:23-29) for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-7). But we must remember that “they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: neither because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: That is, they which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.” Romans 9:6-8.

“If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham”. John 8:39.

“Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.”

“So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.”

“And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:7,9,29.

Of course, all the blessings to all the peoples of the earth, have always and will always come through the one Seed, which is Christ. (Galatians 3:16; Genesis 22:18). From the Father (Source) through the Son (Channel) 1Corinthians 8:6. Martin Luther’s translation is more clear in these areas.

“God gave the inheritance to Abraham by promise” Galatians 3:18.

The promises to Abraham “for an everlasting covenant” (Genesis 17:7) were “confirmed before (or ratified previously Strong’s #4300) of God in Christ” 430 years before the written law was given at Sinai (Galatians 3:17).

Many promises were fulfilled at the Messiah’s first coming (Isaiah 42:1-7; 49:1-8; Luke 1:67-80; Acts 3:12-26).

More will be fulfilled at His second coming (Isaiah 42:9-16; Zechariah 9:11).

And all the promises in the everlasting covenant will be fulfilled on the new earth after it is desolate for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-7; Isaiah 24:17-23; Jeremiah 25:33; 4:23-28) and sin, sinners, death, the grave, sorrow, crying, and pain will be no

more (Revelation 20:8-15; 21:4; Psalm 37:38; 1Corinthians 15:26; Ezekiel 28:12-19). This will be accomplished through the death of the Son of Man (Hebrews chapter 2).

God will “establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages” Isaiah 49:8-11.

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth” Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 21:1-7.

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

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

In that he saith a new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now, that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away” Hebrews 8:11-13.

At the time when “all shall know the Lord” there will be no more need to “teach” and the old covenant experience will no longer exist.

I do not claim to understand everything about the two covenants, but I cannot find anything therein to make me think that Yahweh changed or abolished His holy days.

I discovered that God “appointed the moon for seasons” (Psalm 104:19; Genesis 1:14) or as a signal to mark His festivals (Strong's #4150) and that they are not just Jewish, but He calls them “the feasts of the Lord”, “My feasts” Leviticus 23:2, and “this day is holy unto the Lord your God” Nehemiah 8:2,9-11.

And when I discovered that the same horn described in Daniel 7:19-27 not only changed the weekly sabbath but all of God’s “religious festivals” (Holman Bible), it really troubled me.

Even though God’s Holy days seemed like a very small matter to me, it became a very severe struggle for me.

I did not want to become a feast keeper. I did not want to be despised. I did not want to cause friction or division.

My flesh resisted with questions like: What would our friends think? How would it effect our family? What would happen?

I tried to push God’s Holy days out of my mind, but my conscience would not give me rest until I submitted in obedience

to God's Word the way I understand it. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin" James 4:17.

In my resistance to God's Holy days, I eventually realized that I was telling my Heavenly Father to let me go; and I realized that "man must obey God more than men" Acts 5:29 (Martin Luther).

Jesus said, "If any man come to me and does not love less (Strong's #3404) his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:26).

Paul told us to let no man judge us in respect of a holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath (Colossians 2:16) and I also do not want to judge those who do not respect these days.

God "only knowest the hearts of all the children of men" 1Kings 8:39.

"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit" Psalm 34:18.

"I delight to do thy will, O my God; yea, thy law is within my heart" Psalm 40:8.

I long for the time when all flesh will come to worship before Yahweh every new moon and every sabbath (Isaiah 66:23). And I want to see you there in the blessed hope.

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