

# **1. THE ETERNAL COVENANT AND THE TEMPORARY COVENANTS**

14-oct-13, 15-Oct-13, 9:10 pm, 16-Oct-13, 3:47 pm, 17-Oct-13 9:49 AM 21-Oct-13, 22-Oct-13, 23-Oct-13, 24-Oct-13 20:19 hr. 27-Jan-15, 2-Jun-15, 5-Jun-15, 12-Oct-15 FCT 2-Feb-17, 5-Feb-17, 21-Feb-2017 FCT, 17, 13-Mar-17, 14-Mar-17, 5-Apr-17, 6-Apr-17, 4-May-2017 FCT, 9-Jun-17, 5-Jul-17, 1-Aug-17, 5-Aug-17, 9-Aug-17, 12-Aug-17, 13-Aug-17,

## **SOLID FOOD THESIS 1**

**PURPOSE OF THIS THESIS: to experience the spiritual and emotional rest, peace, tranquility and joy here on earth, as it is going to be in heaven, produced by the perfect security of our salvation, in other words, experiencing God's rest!**

*2 Corinthians 1:21-22 New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>21</sup> Now **it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ**. He anointed us, <sup>22</sup> **set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit** *(down payment)*, guaranteeing **what is to come**.

*Ephesians 1:13-14 New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>13</sup> And you also **were included in Christ** when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the **promised Holy Spirit**, <sup>14</sup> who is **a deposit** *(down payment)* **guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Are we using this deposit or down payment of the eternal grace?

*Ephesians 2:4-6 New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>4</sup> But because of his **great love** for us, God, who is **rich in mercy**, <sup>5</sup> made us **alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions**—it is **by grace** you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God **raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus**,

This is the purpose of this thesis! To get to the point of understanding and experiencing what is to be seated with Christ in the heavenly realms. Just using our faith, closing our eyes and sensing it! How do we use our faith? Very simple: "**Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen**". Hebrews 11:1. We need to learn to visualize the heavenly things, like Jesus, angels etc.

*Hebrews 12:22-24 New Living Translation (NLT)*

<sup>22</sup> You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to **countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering**. <sup>23</sup> You have come to the **assembly of God's firstborn children**, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to **God himself**, who is the judge over all things. You have come to **the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven** who have now been made perfect. <sup>24</sup> You have come to **Jesus**, the one **who mediates the new covenant between God and people**, and to the **sprinkled blood**, which **speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance** like the blood of Abel.

All this requires visualization. When we close our eyes to pray is to enter the angelical spiritual kingdom, **we should** visualize all these things of Hebrews 12:22-24.

This is what Paul exhorts us to do:

Colossians 3:1-3 New International Version (NIV)

**3** Since, then, you have been **raised with Christ**, set your hearts **on things above, where Christ is, seated** at the right hand of God. **2** **Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.** **3** For you died, and **your life is now hidden with Christ in God.**

2 Corinthians 4:18 New Living Translation (NLT)

**18** So we **don't look** at the troubles we can see now; **rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen.** For the **things we see now will soon be gone,** but **the things we cannot see will last forever.**

When we close our eyes to pray, it is not to just ask things from God! We don't need to close our eye for asking. We close our eyes to say, "so long" to the visible and temporary things of this world, and fix our eyes on the invisible things that are eternal and **we believe** exists; the joyful angelical beings, God Himself, the spirit of those who die in the Lord, Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant, the sprinkled blood of Jesus who cries forgiveness, etc. Don't forget, the visible is temporal the invisible is eternal! Prayer should be like a visit to heaven!

Have we arrived to experience the great love of God, his rich mercy, his grace, and feel **seated** by Him in the **heavenly realms?** Have we already get to the point to set our heart and our mind on things above, not just on earthly things? Have we ever tried to feel ourselves hidden with Christ in God? After understanding this thesis, we will be able... I did!

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The core, central, fundamental, main and principal cause of our eternal salvation by grace is set by **God's Eternal Covenant.** Even if you do not understand God's eternal covenant, but believe in Christ, you will surely be in heaven when you die. But if you want to experience heaven down here, and enjoy the fullness and assurance of your Salvation already here on earth, the understanding of the eternal covenant that covers from eternity to eternity, will give you the blessed assurance here as if you would be already in heaven. The understanding of the Eternal Covenant will bring you complete assurance. As we study the Eternal Covenant, remember this next Scripture,

Romans 11:29 New International Version (NIV)

**29** for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

**Hebrews 4:9-11** New International Version (NIV)

**9** There remains, then, a **Sabbath-rest** for the people of God; **10** for **anyone who enters God's rest** also **rests from their works,** just as God did from His. **11** Let us, therefore, make every effort to **enter that rest.**

is security, peace and joy. It is to respite to **"rest from our works, or efforts"**

Romans 14:17 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>17</sup> for the kingdom of God **is not** eating and drinking (things we can see), **but** righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (invisible things).

2 Peter 3:17-18 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from **your own steadfastness**, <sup>18</sup> but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity.

We never finish to grow and learn what our Lord Jesus Christ and His grace is and did for us, but the more we understand of it, more of heaven on earth we will enjoy. There's still a lot we can learn while we are alive here.

Acts 17:11

The (Jewish) people of Berea were more **open-minded** than the (Jewish) people of Thessalonica. They were very **willing to receive** God's message, and every day **they carefully examined the Scriptures** to see if what Paul said **was true**.

Please, like the people of Berea, be "open-minded" and "carefully examine" the Scriptures to see "if this things I say are true." The most important elements in my thesis are the Scriptures quotations. This is a thesis so I would love critique, if possible, and I will try to defend my thesis if I consider it necessary.

Have you entered God's rest and enjoyed the peace perfect of God?

## **A. THE TEMPORARY COVENANTS IN THE SCRIPTURES**

**1. What is a covenant?** A covenant is an agreement between two or more persons committing to deliver what they promise. To add assurance, a contract is done, signed before a notary, which is added to the oral promise. Marriage is a covenant. The bride and groom promise mutual fidelity before witnesses and sign a marriage contract. Buying a home is a covenant; the owner gives his house to another and the other promises before an attorney to pay the agreed price. If one of them fails the contract, the other is released from his responsibility and can even sue him or her in court.

**How were the Covenants made?** Generally, in ancient times, covenants were made with blood as a religious ceremony. Animals were cut in the half, and the two covenant persons passed between the animal parts saying: "God thus split me if don't do my part, and my body get eaten by the birds of heaven and the beasts of the Earth."

### **Example of a broken covenant:**

Jeremiah 34:18-20

<sup>18</sup> Because you have **broken the terms of our covenant, I will cut you apart just as you cut apart the calf when you walked between its halves to solemnize your vows**. <sup>19</sup> Yes, I will cut

you apart, whether you are officials of Judah or Jerusalem, court officials, priests, or common people — for you have broken your oath. <sup>20</sup> I will give you to your enemies, and they will kill you. **Your bodies will be food for the vultures and wild animals.**

There are many covenants in the Old Testament, (Adam, Noah, Abraham, David, Solomon, etc.). Those covenants were circumstantial and temporary, even the covenant of the Law of Moses was transitory.

**2. The first covenant with Adam** was an oral agreement. God promised Adam, Eve and their descendants custody of the Garden of Eden and all the land. Adam accepted but in return he had to **care and cultivate** it and **not eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil** that was forbidden. The two pledged to keep their part of their Agreement. They could eat of all the thousands of trees, **but one!**

**Genesis 2:15-17** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **work it and take care of it.**

<sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but **you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**, for when you eat from it you will **certainly die.**"

Eve and Adam failed miserably very early in our history, and suffered the consequences. God kicked them out of the garden, made their life harder for both them and us. All of their descendants and creation itself are still suffering for it

**3. The second covenant with Adam and the whole creation**, was very inconvenient to Adam, Eve and all humankind until now.

**Genesis 3:11-13** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>11</sup> And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? **Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"** <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Sufferings for women:

**Genesis 3:16** Good News Translation (GNT)

And **he said to the woman**, "I will increase your trouble in pregnancy and your pain in giving birth. In spite of this, you will still have desire for your husband, yet you will be subject to him."

Sufferings for Men:

**Genesis 3:17-21** Good News Translation (GNT)

<sup>17</sup> And **he said to the man**, "You listened to your wife and ate the fruit which I told you not to eat. Because of what you have done, the ground will be under a curse. You will have to work hard all your life to make it produce enough food for you. <sup>18</sup> It will produce weeds and thorns, and you will have to eat wild plants. <sup>19</sup> You will have to work hard and sweat to make the soil produce anything, until you go back to the soil from which you were formed. You were made from soil, and you will become soil

again.”<sup>20</sup> Adam named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all human beings. <sup>21</sup> And the LORD God **made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and his wife, and he clothed them.**

Sufferings for all creation:

#### Romans 8:18-23

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the **sufferings of this present time** are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the **anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God** (our new bodies). <sup>20</sup> For the creation was **subjected to futility uselessness**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that **the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption** (useless plants, mute animal, thorns and thistles...) **into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.** <sup>22</sup> For we know that **the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.** <sup>23</sup> And not only this, but **also we ourselves**, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even **we ourselves groan within ourselves**, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the **redemption of our body** (resurrected, celestial bodies).

In this very early part of history, the first two human beings needed God to sacrifice animals to clothe them with their skins, so there was shedding of blood involved with the first couple of the world. This could be a kind of prophesy about Christ shedding His blood to cover us with His righteousness to start a new creation.

Our beloved Paul puts it very clearly in the next Sacred Scripture. **Paul connects the disaster** of the second covenant of God with **Eve, Adam, with us, and the grace of our Lord** Jesus Christ.

#### Romans 5:12-21 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as **sin entered the world through one man**, Adam, and death through sin, and in this way **death came to all people**, because all sinned (In Adam, In Christ we die to Adam race and resurrected with Him as a new creation) <sup>13</sup> To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but **sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law.** <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, **death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses,** (In Eden humans started to die) **even over those who did not sin** by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a **pattern of the one to come,** Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the **many died by the trespass of the one man,** Adam how much more did **God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man,** Jesus Christ, overflow to the **many!** <sup>16</sup> Nor can the gift of God be compared now is going to be better than it would be if Adam would have not sin with the result of one man's sin: The **judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation**, but the **gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.** <sup>17</sup> For if, by the **trespass of the one man**, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the **gift of righteousness** reign in life **through the one man,** Jesus Christ!

<sup>18</sup> Consequently, just as **one trespass resulted in condemnation** for all people, so also **one righteous act resulted in justification** and life for all people. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the **disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners**, we know it very well so also through the **obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous** This is what we need to learn better. <sup>20</sup> The law was brought in **so that the trespass might increase.** But where sin increased, **grace increased all the more,** <sup>21</sup> so that, just as **sin reigned in death,** so also **grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In other words: Just as **without cause in myself**, I was declared a **sinner**, because of the sin of Adam, so without cause in myself, because of <sup>JESUS</sup> God's purpose and grace, I was declared **righteous**. Jesus is the central figure of the New and Eternal Covenant, He is the second Adam **beginning a new creation**.

Dear friends, I believe that is God's Justice! **Not counting our trespasses against us is** Just! It is God's Justice, because all our trespasses are also because of Adam and Eve, we were born sinners because of Adam and Eve, **we are not sinners because we sin**, but **we sin because we were born sinners**; sin is not **an action** but a **condition**. I believe it is right that our sins would not be counted against us. Because God is Just, he declared us righteous notwithstanding our behavior.

Of course, God knows the consequence of Adam's 2<sup>nd</sup> covenant, where all the women because of Eve disobedience, and all the men for Adam's disobedience and even the whole creation, was punished. Sometimes we do not have the whole Universal Story or the whole Bible in mind from beginning to end, because we read the Bible by bits, one or two chapters a day and to read all, takes more than a year. But God notices the whole history in one sighting because everything is present for Him. So, He knows everything continually, and knows the cause of everything. I mean that **He does not forget why we are all sinners**. Because we forget why we are sinners, we do not enter into God's rest. We continue to live under condemnation. so He did not count our trespasses against those He wants to apply His grace, because he is just. So I don't keep thinking in myself as a sinner any longer, because God does not count them, why should do I?

But grace is not just **forgiveness of sins**. Grace also provides the **capacity of improving** our behavior. Most people who get to know Christ experience great changes, actually, all of them do! They generally bring their relatives and friends to the Lord because they see their change of behavior. I've seen it as a pastor. Of course, the same Satan who deceived Eve is at large and is continually tempting us. But grace gives us the Holy Spirit as a pledge of our spiritual inheritance and the Holy Spirit guides us from our conscience and, most of the time, we are more than conquerors. From a position of security, we perform better. Why the trapezers plays with the trapeze in the circus doing acrobatics in the air? Because there us a net underneath. Than net gives them assurance. From a position of security, we perform better. Because our assurance in Christ, we can confront better our temptations.

**Romans 8:37-39** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>37</sup> But in all these things we **overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us**. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us **from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord**.

We also were given the capacity and weapons to defend ourselves against Satan:

**Ephesians 6:10-17** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup> **Put on the full armor of God**, so that you will **be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil**. (This armor is invisible) <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (All invisible) <sup>13</sup> Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that **you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm**. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH **TRUTH**, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, (The righteousness of Christ) <sup>15</sup> and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; (peace with God, with ourselves and with everybody else) <sup>16</sup> in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one (Faith in the promises of God, believe what He says). <sup>17</sup> And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, (have the total assurance of our salvation) and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

It does not say the sword of the Bible, but of the Spirit. It does not say the Word of the Biblia but the Word of God. In the times of Paul there were not bibles nor printing machines. Believers were instructed and commanded to walk in the Spirit, to live in the Spirit, and the Spirit would guide us and teach us.

**4. The Old Covenant, or Law of Moses:** This is another circumstantial covenant. It is evident that the family of Jacob, descendent of Abraham, after years of living in Egypt with abundance, thanks to Joseph, started to worship the gods of Egypt, and behave badly. So, God punished them into slavery, until through Moses, He delivered them from the Egyptians. These Israelites were so bad, that very soon after crossing the red sea, they were worshipping idols again, this time the Golden Calf, while Moses was talking with God on Mount Sinai. God then put them under a very strict law the law of Moses. Paul says that God put Israel under a very strict law that would require anybody who would disobeyed it to be killed, because of their transgressions.

**Galatians 3:19** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Why the Law then? It was added **because of transgressions**, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

The law was a punishment for their transgression, this is why it was so strict and full of curses and killings.

**Hebrews 10:28** Good News Translation (GNT)

Anyone who disobeys the Law of Moses **is put to death without any mercy** when judged guilty from the evidence of two or more witnesses.

The people committed themselves to keep all the obligations of the Law of Moses. The covenant was made with blood, like this:

**Exodus 24:3-8** New Living Translation (NLT) <sup>3</sup> Then Moses went down to the people and repeated all the instructions and regulations the Lord had given him. All the people answered with one voice, **"We will do everything the Lord has commanded."** <sup>4</sup> Then Moses carefully wrote down all the Lord's instructions. Early the next morning Moses got up and built an altar at the foot of the mountain. He also set up twelve pillars, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>5</sup> Then he sent some of the young Israelite men to present burnt offerings and to sacrifice bulls as peace offerings to the Lord. <sup>6</sup> Moses

drained **half the blood from these animals into basins. The other half he splattered against the altar.** <sup>7</sup>Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it aloud to the people. Again they all responded, "We will do everything the Lord has commanded. We will obey." <sup>8</sup>Then **Moses took the blood from the basins and splattered it over the people,** declaring, "**Look, this blood confirms the covenant the Lord has made with you** in giving you these instructions."

As we see, the Mosaic Covenant was not only an oral promise but also a promise sealed with the blood of animals before God. Moses sent young men to sacrifice several bulls and then divided the blood in two parts. He sprinkled one part of the blood over the altar, before God, and after the reading of the Law to the people, and their promise to comply with it, Moses then **sprayed the other half of the blood over the people.** There was in those days a special **reverence for blood** as if it would be **life** <sup>Leviticus 17:11, 14</sup> and the blood was considered a witness of the covenant, they acted as if the blood could talk as a witness would:

**Genesis 4:10** New Living Translation (NLT)

But the Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's **blood cries out to me** from the ground!"

**Hebrews 12:24** New Living Translation (NLT)

You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which **speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.**

The blood of Jesus, eternally, **cries out forgiveness!** There are many crimes that have not been resolved; but in Judgment day that blood will also cry out for vengeance before God.

## **B. THE ETERNAL AND UNILATERAL COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM**

God gave many orders, commandments, ceremonies, memorials, feasts celebrations etc. in the old Testament, specially under the Law, and commanded them to remember those orders forever. But what He did with Abraham, was different, he was starting God's a family from which the Savior of the world would come; a people that would be justified according to God's purpose and grace. This would be to all the descendant of Abraham, among whom are we belong trough his descendant Jesus Christ, and it was the only covenant that on top of the promise, God made an oath that He would keep it. We call this unilateral, because it was a covenant of grace. God would keep his part because he promised it and because of his oath.

Matthew 1:1New International Version (NIV)

**1 This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:**

Galatians 3:14New International Version (NIV)

**<sup>14</sup> He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.**

Galatians 3:29New International Version (NIV)

**29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

We call it also eternal because God say so <sup>Genesis 17:7</sup>, and unilateral because only one side, God, promises to keep the covenant, regardless of what the other side, Abraham does. The covenant with Abraham was not made by two sides as the common covenants were; it was an unconditional promise that was born in the heart of God, who makes the promise. It is also a Covenant of **Grace** where Abraham got something for nothing. In a Covenant of Grace, God does not expect anything from us but just to **believe** Him. Believe that He exists and is a rewarded of those who seek Him <sup>Hebrews 12:6</sup>. The promise was not just for Abraham but also for all his descendants. The covenant with Abraham **is part of the Eternal Covenant**, this is why is so important.

**Hebrews 6:13-14** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>13</sup> For when God made the **promise** to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, **He swore by Himself**, <sup>14</sup> saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU."

We will learn, the importance for us, of God's Covenant with Abraham, our father. The purpose of this lesson is to help us to **enter into God's rest**, and

**Romans 11:26-29**

<sup>26</sup> And so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB." <sup>27</sup> "THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN **I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.**" <sup>28</sup> From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the **standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;** (*Abraham, Isaac, Jacob*) <sup>29</sup> for the gifts and the calling of God **are irrevocable.**

Abram lived in Ur of Chaldea, today Iraq. He and his family were pagans and served other gods <sup>Joshua 24:2</sup>. Jewish tradition says that his father, Terah, was a manufacturer of idols. God sovereignly surprised Abraham by calling him and promising to make of him a great nation:

**Genesis 12:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; <sup>2</sup> And **I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; <sup>3</sup> And **I will** bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And **in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.**" <sup>4</sup> So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.**

How God communicate with Abram? I believe God simply spoke to Him. But this simple experience contained a major **theological teaching** that He understood, because Paul says that **the gospel was preached** to Abraham,

Galatians 3:8 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*\*The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU."***

There was no Bible, no knowledge of Gog, Abram was a pagan worshiper of **Idols**, but the voice of God infers a **theological revelation** to Abram. Surely this was an extraordinary experience for Abraham. I believe that he couldn't stop thinking about it day and night, and his thinking was something like this:

1<sup>st</sup> Never a god-Idol had **talk** to us. This is something **supernatural!**

2<sup>nd</sup> Our god-Idols never **promise** anything!

3<sup>rd</sup> This is a God that we were **never told** about!

4<sup>th</sup> This God **is not** a piece of wood, and He talks!

5<sup>th</sup> This God **is Spirit**, not a thing, He is invisible!

6<sup>th</sup> This God is **Omnipresent**, he speaks me from nowhere!

7<sup>th</sup> This God make extraordinary **promises**; no other god could do that.

8<sup>th</sup> This God is **sovereign**; He empowers me to **created** nations

9<sup>th</sup> This God will bless **my family** and all my **descendants**,

10<sup>th</sup> He told me would **bless the full world** by One of my **Descendants**, (Jesus.)

11<sup>th</sup> He is **omniscient** because knows the **future!**

This is pure **theology, Abraham believed God and God counted his faith for righteousness. He was saved by faith like us.** He was preached the Gospel, good news. He is the father of all the believers,

Romans 4:11-16 New International Version (NIV)

***11 And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. 12 And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. 13 It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. 14 For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, 15 because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.***

As you see, Abram's salvation was by faith. God appeared and called Him, **Abram did not seek God.** But God in his Sovereignty elected him. The Covenant with Abraham was the Eternal Covenant. He was the first believer.

<sup>8</sup> *Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and **announced the gospel in advance to Abraham**: “**All nations will be blessed through you**”<sup>9</sup> So those who rely on **faith** are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. <sup>10</sup> For all who rely on the **works** of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” <sup>11</sup> Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.” <sup>12</sup> The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.” <sup>13</sup> **Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law** by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” <sup>14</sup> He redeemed us in order that **the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus**, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*

**Genesis 17:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> *No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For **I have made you** the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> **I will make you** exceedingly fruitful, and **I will make** nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.*

Abraham believed God's promise and left everything behind, without knowing where he was going, just believing the invisible God promise. God counted his faith as righteousness, that is, as if he wouldn't have ever sinned, and guided him every step of the way. It was not Abraham that sought God but God who sought Abraham, just as it happened to the twelve disciples and us.

**John 15:16**

**You did not** choose Me but **I chose you**, and **appointed you** that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

**Romans 8:29-30** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>29</sup> For those whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** to become **conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup> and these **whom He predestined**, He also **called**; and these **whom He called**, He also **justified**; and these whom He **justified**, He **also glorified**. Justified means treating us as if we had never sinned.

As the covenant made with Abraham is part of the Eternal Covenant, He, God, made Abraham the father, not only of the Hebrew people, but also of all us believers:

**Genesis 17:7** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an **everlasting covenant**, to be God to **you and to your descendants after you**.

**Romans 4:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> And he (*Abraham*) received the **sign** of circumcision, a **seal** of the righteousness of **the faith which he had while uncircumcised**, so that he might be the father **of all who believe** without being **circumcised**, that **righteousness might be credited to them**, <sup>12</sup> and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.

But sometimes his faith would waver a little:

**Genesis 15:2-8**

<sup>2</sup> Abram said, "O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir." <sup>4</sup> Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> Then **he believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.** <sup>7</sup> And He said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it." <sup>8</sup> He said, "O Lord God, how may I know that I will possess it?"

God, then, realizing Abraham weakness, and because His covenant was eternal, to show that **He was willing to fulfill the promise made to him anyway, added a blood oath, or covenant.** Of course, God's promise would have been enough because God does not lie, but God empowered his promise by swearing him that He would keep his promise despite Abraham weakness, just to **reassure** him. Abram would had **not only an oral promise, but also a blood covenant** assuring him that God would keep His promise.

God's response to Abraham weakness:

**Genesis 15:9-18**

<sup>9</sup> So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> Then he brought all these to Him and **cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other;** but he did not cut the birds. <sup>11</sup> The birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, and Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup> Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. <sup>14</sup> But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. <sup>15</sup> As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup> Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete." <sup>17</sup> It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and **behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces.** <sup>18</sup> **On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram,** saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, □from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.

Abram split the animals by half and put each half opposite the other but did not split birds, and began to wait for God to show up. The animals could be a type of the **human nature of Christ;** and the heavenly birds that didn't have to be broken could be a type of His **divine nature** which was not split, but was present on the cross while his body was pierced for us, His Divine Spirit was alive and is alive until today:

**Isaiah 53:5**

*But He (Jesus) was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.*

**1 Corinthians 11:24** King James Version (KJV)

*And when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is **broken for you**: this do in remembrance of me.*

The lessons we must learn from the faith and the weakness of Abram are:

It is not strange for a true believer to doubt about spiritual promises when things go bad. Abraham is the father of all the believers and look what happened to him after he was justified by faith; as he waited and waited the promised son, he doubted God's promise! to the point that He and his wife Sarah decided to have a child through the slave-maid. So, to assure Abraham that He would keep his promise and give him a son from his wife, God did swear on his promise, doing all the ceremony of the covenant, passing between the animal catted in half, which even looks ridiculous for a God to do.

God understand that human lapse of faith, even Jesus at the cross had it, He asked "my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" It sounds very strange after his wonderful relationship with His Father; but already in Gethsemane, he was afraid of what was coming and asked God to change course making Him to avoid the horrible cup of our dirty sins. Pain when a son dies, when we lose our job, when we go through divorce, may cause us to say Where is God? Don't be afraid, to tell God your doubts, even your complaints, as Abram our father did. God not only understands our weaknesses, but will keep on loving us as we do with our children. First, we must believe in the promise of God's **eternal salvation** and rest on His promise and oath; and when our faith is flagging, God, in His time through His Word, the Church and more than anything else, the sacrament of **Communion well understood**, as we eat His body and drink His blood, will feel Jesus' sacrifice inside of us, not just being the witness of the covenant, but the sealer of the Covenant with his own blood. **the body and the blood** of the Covenant, poured out by His Son, **gives us security of eternal forgiveness**. Also, as we eat His body and drink His blood, we bring that covenant within us, proclaiming continually within our conscience that we are God's Children,

Romans 8:16. <sup>16</sup> *The Spirit Himself <sup>(Δ)</sup>testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,*"

**1 John 1:7** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin**.

**1 Peter 1:18-21** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>18</sup> *Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with **precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ**. <sup>20</sup> For **He was foreknown before the foundation of the world**, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup> who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

As we see, Abram **did not pass between the split animals**; only God did, taking the shape of an old smoking oven, because **it was a one-sided Covenant of Grace**. God knew that He could not count on perfection in Abram nor in his descendants not even in ourselves and **swore that He would keep His promise, according to His purpose and grace, regardless of Abraham behavior.** I believe that God did this because He remembers that the sinful nature was caused by Adam. That's why He is so merciful with us. Also, because every time God required something from the Human Being under the transitory covenants, we failed, starting with our father Adam. But Jesus fulfilled our side of the Covenant, and He did it for us, the promise breakers.

**"In that day, the Lord made a Covenant with Abram..."** Abram didn't promise anything; God did not say: "If you give me, I will give you..." that would be the Law of Moses system, Deuteronomy 28:1-68. God said to Abram: **"I will make you", "I will bless you."** Abram only **believed** God and believed the promise. Abram did not ask anything of God. God called him when he least expected, then He guided him to the Promised Land, gave him a family that would become a nation and made him the **father of all believers**.

#### Roman 4:11-12

<sup>11</sup> and he (Abram) received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had **while uncircumcised**, so that he might be the **father of all who believe without being circumcised**, that righteousness might be credited to them, <sup>12</sup> and the **father of circumcision** to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.

#### Galatians 3:6-9 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> So also Abraham **"believed** God, and it was **credited to him as righteousness."**<sup>7</sup> Understand, then, that **those who have faith are children of Abraham.** <sup>8</sup> Scripture foresaw that **God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."** <sup>9</sup> So **those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.**

The writer of the Epistle to Hebrews explains the covenant of God with Abram in this way:

#### Hebrews 6:13-20

<sup>13</sup> God made a promise to Abraham. Since he had no one greater on whom to base his oath, he based it on himself. <sup>14</sup> He said, "I will certainly bless you and give you many descendants." <sup>15</sup> So Abraham **received what God promised** because he waited patiently for it. <sup>16</sup> When people take oaths, they base their oaths on someone greater than themselves. Their oaths guarantee what they say and end all arguments. <sup>17</sup> God wouldn't change his plan. He wanted to make this perfectly clear to those who would receive his **promise**, so **he took an oath.** <sup>18</sup> God did this so that we would be encouraged. **God cannot lie when he takes an oath or makes a promise. These two things** (the promise and the oath) **can never be changed.** Those of us who have taken refuge in him hold on to the confidence we have been given. <sup>19</sup> We have this confidence as a sure and **strong anchor for our lives.** This confidence goes into the **holy place behind the curtain** <sup>20</sup> where Jesus went before us on our behalf. He has become the chief priest forever in the way Melchizedek was a priest.

God will fulfill His promise and will keep His covenant unilaterally no matter what happens because He **does not lie** and because He **swore** that He would keep it.

Romans 11:29

**God never changes his mind when He gives gifts or when He calls someone.**

Even when Abram doubted about his future, God kept His promise. Paul says to Timothy:

2 Timothy 2:13

**If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.**

Paul also says: “**all Israel will be saved**” to show that God keeps the agreement or promise He made to Abram, regardless of their behavior. God does it, just because He promised to Abram and He swore He would. Paul explains it this way:

Romans 11:25-28 God’s Word Translation (GW)

*<sup>25</sup> Brothers and sisters, I want you to understand **this mystery** so that you won’t become arrogant. The minds of some Israelites have become closed until all of God’s non-Jewish people are included. <sup>26</sup> In this way **Israel as a whole will be saved**, as Scripture says, “The Savior will come from Zion. He will remove godlessness from Jacob. <sup>27</sup> **My promise to them will be fulfilled when I take away their sins.**” <sup>28</sup> The Good News made the Jewish people enemies because of you. **But by God’s choice they are loved because of their ancestors.***

The promise God made to Abram, of salvation by grace, was through **Isaac**, the true son of Abram and Sarah his legal wife, and not through Ishmael son of Abram and the slave-maid Hagar. The descendants **of Abraham and Sarah are the children of grace**. Sarah, a free woman, represents Grace, who begets free children. Hagar, a slave woman, represents the Law who begets slaves. Sarah, Hagar and the two children, Ismael and Isaac ended up fighting each other, until...

Genesis 21:10-12

<sup>10</sup> Therefore Sarah said to Abraham, “Drive out this maid and her son, for the son of this maid **shall not be an heir with my son Isaac.**” <sup>11</sup> The matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son. <sup>12</sup> But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; **whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.**”

The following is Paul’s interpretation of the struggle between Hagar and Sarah and Ismael and Isaac. According to Paul, Hagar represents the **Law** and Sarah represents **Grace** fighting with each other, just as it happens today in many of our churches.

Galatians 4:28-31

<sup>28</sup> And you brethren, like Isaac, are **children of promise.** <sup>29</sup> But as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so **it is now also.** (Legalism has invaded the church) <sup>30</sup> But what does the Scripture say? “**CAST OUT THE BONDWOMAN AND HER SON, FOR THE SON OF THE BONDWOMAN SHALL NOT BE AN HEIR WITH THE SON OF THE FREE WOMAN.**” <sup>31</sup> So then, brethren, **we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.**

John 8:35-36 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; **the son does remain forever.** <sup>36</sup> So if the Son makes you free, you will be **free indeed.** <sup>36</sup> Así que, si el Hijo los libera, serán ustedes verdaderamente libres.

Paul's advice is to "**cast out** Hagar and her son (from the church)." Paul says that Hagar, mother of Ishmael, is a type of the Law, creating slaves and Sarah, mother of Isaac, is a type of grace, creating free sons. **Through Christ, we are descendants of Abraham and Sarah.**

Galatians 3:29

And **if you belong to Christ**, then **you are Abraham's descendants**, heirs according to promise.

**We are not slaves**, children of **Hagar, a slave herself**, under the Law. **We are free children** of Abraham **through Sarah** the free woman who made us to be born free. We are under Grace, not under Law. Moses is not our father, Abraham is our father. Paul tells us to "cast out" Hagar from the Church.

Galatians 3:7-9 <sup>7</sup> Therefore, be sure that **it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.** <sup>8</sup> The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, **preached the gospel** beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU." <sup>9</sup> **So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.**

Abram believed the good news from God and was justified by faith in **Ur of Chaldea** when he was around seventy years old. He obeyed God and departed to Haran but was not circumcised yet. At 75 he departed from Haran to Canaan. Abram was circumcised in Canaan when he was 95 years old twenty years after he believe God and was justified by Him. So, when he believed God, in **Ur of Chaldea** he was still a pagan Gentile worshiper of idols. Therefore, he is the spiritual father of **all who believe the Good News**, uncircumcised and circumcised. We, gentiles and Israelites, are under the same covenant.

## **B. THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT.**

**1. All temporary covenants required people to work their part of the covenant under penalty if they wouldn't. The Law of Moses required death for those who did not keep it** Hebrews 10:28. Therefore all humankind was condemned to die, because not one was able to keep that horrible Law. But under the **Eternal Covenant**, we are told **to do nothing:**

Ephesians 2:8-10 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> For it is **by grace** you have been saved, **through faith—and this is not from yourselves**, it is the **gift of God**— <sup>9</sup> **not by works**, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For **we are God's handiwork**, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which **God prepared in advance for us to do.**

**God even gave us the faith to believe as a gift.** So we are saved **believing in the love of God**, because **Jesus Christ did our part, suffering the penalty of the Law for us**. Only the New and Eternal Covenant **has a Savior who paid all the requirements of the Law**. This was not a new Idea from God; The new covenant of grace was crafted in eternity within the Holy Trinity. Before creating us, **God and his Son** made the **Eternal Covenant** of Grace, which would be sealed with blood, the blood of the Son of God in His incarnation. In that **Eternal Covenant**, God promises **forgiveness** of all sins to those who believe in His love John 3:16. He would make us His family through our mysterious marriage with Jesus Christ His Son, give us eternal life, and reign with Him forever. This group of elected believers, would become the spouse of the Son of God. The **eternal nature of the pact**, with no beginning and no end, sealed with the blood of Jesus Christ, is revealed by these two events which took place in eternity, before the ages, and forever.

Revelation 13:8 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, **the Lamb<sup>(C)</sup> who was slain from the creation of the world<sup>(a)(D)</sup>**

**Hebrews 13:8**

*Jesus Christ is the same **yesterday and today and forever.***

**Titus 1:2**

*In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, **promised long ages ago**,*

This covenant has two names: **New** and **Eternal**. It is call New because it was kept secret since eternity until the coming of Jesus 2 Timothy 1:9-10, Titus 1:2-3, and to differentiate it from the Law that was call Old Covenant Hebrews 8:13, Romans 7:6.

We are under a covenant that is both, **New**,

**Luke 22:20** And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the **new covenant** in My blood.

and **Eternal**.

**Hebrews 13:20-21** Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the **eternal covenant**, even Jesus our Lord. <sup>21</sup> <sup>(A)</sup>equip you in every good thing to do His will, <sup>(B)</sup>working in us that <sup>(C)</sup>which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, <sup>(D)</sup>to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**New** in contrast to the Law of Moses, called the **Old** Covenant,

**Hebrews 8:13**

When He said, "A **new covenant**," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

but **eterna** because it was decided **before the ages and will be celebrated for eternity**. The Law of Moses was not eternal, it had beginning and end Galatians 3:19. The

Eternal Covenant is **valid for eternity; this is why it is called the "Eternal Covenant."** This covenant surpasses all the transitory covenants. It was covenanted before the beginning of time and will continue forever. Thanks God! I do not want to live in a heaven under the possibility of being dismissed after a while!

**2. Jesus paid all our debts to the Law** because according to the law all of us deserved death, but Jesus died for us:

**Hebrews 10:28** *Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.*

**Romans 10:4** *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

**Colossians 2:14** *Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

So, Jesus not only pays with his blood, but is more radical, He makes us die with Him to deliver us from the Law:

**Romans 7:4** *Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.*

He paid the ransom to Satan because he had taken us captive, so Jesus delivered us from him! What is a ransom? It's a rescue. To whom we pay a ransom? To one who kidnapped us. Who kidnapped us? Satan! To whom did Jesus pay the ransom? To Satan! Well this is a for a later discussion:

**Colossians 1:13**  
*For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.*

**Colossians 2:15**  
*When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.*

He dispossessed Satan by paying the price he asked as a ransom for us. What was the first thing Jesus did after dying? Descended into Hell. Jesus descended into Hell to pay the ransom to the one that had us captive:

**Mathew 20:28**  
*Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

1 Timothy 2:6 Good News Translation (GNT) <sup>6</sup> *who gave himself to redeem the whole human race. That was the proof at the right time that God wants everyone to be saved,*

J.B. Phillips: *He gave himself as a ransom for us all—an act of redemption which happened once, but which stands for all times as a witness to what he is.*

**1 Peter 1:18-20** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. <sup>20</sup> For **He was foreknown before the foundation of the world**, but has appeared in these last times **for the sake of you**.

This is an Eternal Covenant that starts in **eternity** and will be celebrate in God's kingdom also for **eternity**.

**Matthew 26:29** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on **until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom**. (We will have communion in heaven.)

We remember and celebrate this continually in the Eucharist:

**1 Corinthians 11:23-25**

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; <sup>24</sup> and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; **this is My body which is broken for you**; do this in remembrance of Me", <sup>25</sup> In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the **new covenant in My blood**; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." communion is to remember that his covenant dwells inside of us.

The blood of Jesus **sealed** the new and Everlasting Covenant; this is what we actualize every time we have communion, not only with our minds, but also by eating His body and drinking His blood. We live now with **the covenant inside**. This is why the primitive Christians had communion **every day**, or in every meal, some churches every Sunday and classic churches like Catholics, Anglicans and Episcopalians have it every day.

**Acts 2:42, 46**

<sup>42</sup> They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the **breaking of bread and to prayer**. <sup>46</sup> **Day by day continuing** with one mind in the temple, and **breaking bread from house to house**, they were **taking their meals together** with gladness and sincerity of heart.

They had not church buildings, they witness inviting people to their homes and they visited homes and witnessed taking advantage of the oriental hospitality, Lucas 10:5-9.

**1 John 1:7**

The **blood of Jesus**, His son, **cleanses us from all sin**.

**1 Peter 1:18-21**

<sup>18</sup> For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from the fathers, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with **the precious blood of Christ**, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> **He was chosen before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the times for you** <sup>21</sup> who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, **so that your faith and hope are in God**.

**2 Timothy 1:9**

Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to His own purpose and grace** which was granted us **in Christ Jesus from all eternity**.

**Ephesians 1:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> He **chose us in Him before the creation of the world** to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love <sup>5</sup> **He predestined us for adoption to sonship (sons in law) through Jesus Christ**, in accordance with His pleasure and will. <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

He offered His blood to seal the eternal Covenant of Grace, promising **not to take into account** all our errors. He made our side of the Covenant paying our debt. This would be an **everlasting Covenant, from eternity to eternity!** God promised His Son **not to count our sins**, to **ignore them**, which is the definition of **forgiveness** for all the chosen ones.

**2 Corinthians 5:19**

*That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, **not counting people's sins against them**. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

...and **through Christ we became descendants of Abraham. He called us** into His grace, as **He called Abraham**, promised and swore with the blood of His son that He would **make us His family, uniting us with Jesus Christ** His Son by marriage.

**Ephesians 1:5**

*He predestined us for adoption to **sonship through Jesus Christ**, in accordance with His pleasure and will.*

**Revelation 19:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. <sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For **the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready.** <sup>8</sup> Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.) <sup>9</sup> Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the **wedding supper of the Lamb!**" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

This is what Jesus wanted and asked God about us:

**John 17:21-26**

<sup>21</sup> That they may all be one; even **as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us**, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. <sup>22</sup> The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; <sup>23</sup> **I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity**, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. <sup>24</sup> Father, **I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory** which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; <sup>26</sup> and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that **the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.**"

By marriage we will be part of the family of God, the Holy Trinity. God **gives us eternal life** and we will **reign with Christ forever and ever**. This group of elected ones would be called first disciples, then servants, then friends and finally the **bride of Jesus Christ**. The **eternal nature** of the Covenant, sealed with the blood of Jesus Christ, is revealed in these two eternal events:

**Revelation 13:8**

The Lamb that **was slain since the beginning of the world.**

**1 Peter 1:18-20** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>18</sup> Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but **with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.** <sup>20</sup> For He was **foreknown before the foundation of the world,** but has **appeared in these last times** for the sake of you.

Though prophesy is to proclaim something that will happen in the future, the sacrifice of Christ is prophesied as something that **had already happened,** therefore Isaiah 53 is written in the past tense, because in God's mind, it happened before the ages. This is a mystery but it is true. God had everything done from the beginning!

**Isaiah 53:5-12** Living Bible (TLB)

<sup>5</sup> But He **was** wounded and bruised for our sins. He **was** beaten that we might have peace; He **was** lashed — and we were healed! <sup>6</sup> We — every one of us — have strayed away like sheep! We, who left God's paths to follow our own. Yet God **laid** on Him the guilt and sins of every one of us! <sup>7</sup> He **was** oppressed and He **was** afflicted, yet He never **said** a word. He was **brought** as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He **stood** silent before the ones condemning him. <sup>8</sup> From prison and trial they **led** Him away to His death. But who among the people of that day realized it **was** their sins that He was dying for — that He **was** suffering their punishment? <sup>9</sup> He **was** buried like a criminal, but in a rich man's grave; but he **had done** no wrong and **had** never spoken an evil word. <sup>10</sup> But it **was** the Lord's good plan to bruise him and fill him with grief. However, when his soul **has been** made an offering for sin, then he shall have a multitude of children, many heirs. He shall live again, and God's program shall prosper in his hands. <sup>11</sup> And when he sees all that is accomplished by the anguish of his soul, he shall be satisfied; and because of what he has experienced, **my righteous Servant shall make many to be counted righteous before God, for he shall bear all their sins.** <sup>12</sup> Therefore, I will give him the honors of one who is mighty and great because **he has poured** out his soul unto death. He **was counted as a sinner,** and **he bore** the sins of many, and **he pled** with God for sinners.

The Eternal Covenant was signed back in eternity; therefore, it is an **Eternal** Covenant; eternal means "without beginning and without end." It **starts in eternity** and therefore will be also celebrated **in heaven for eternity:**

**Matthew 26:29** New International Version (NIV)

And I say unto you that from now on I will not drink more of this fruit of the vine, **until that day that I drink it new with you in my father's Kingdom.**

This means that the Lamb **"slain since before the world began"** will be celebrated forever in the Kingdom of God. The **New and Eternal Covenant** is a covenant of grace; a favor, a gift **planned, ordered and granted** by God before the ages and to be celebrated **forever, from eternity to eternity.** This means that the Holy Trinity was very serious about this covenant. We can have security and perfect peace. **This is an Eternal Covenant! Guaranteed! We can rest!** This should help us to understand words like these:

**Romans 8:28-39** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>28</sup> And we know that **God causes** all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are **called according to His purpose**. <sup>29</sup> For those whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, He also **called**; and these whom He called, He also **justified**; and these whom He justified, He also **glorified**. <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us?** <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him **freely give us all things?** <sup>33</sup> Who will bring a **charge against God's elect?** God is the one who **justifies**; <sup>34</sup> who is **the one who condemns?** Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also **intercedes for us**. <sup>35</sup> Who will **separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?** <sup>36</sup> Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long. We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup> But **in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us**. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that **neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord**.

Friends, this is an Eternal Covenant!

**3. The New and Eternal Covenant is a covenant of grace.** It is a favor and a free gift planned, ordered and awarded before the ages by God himself:

**Ephesians 1:4**

**God chose us in Christ before the creation of the world, to be Holy and without blemish in His presence.**

a. This is a promise that **safeguards the forgiveness of all the sins** of the chosen ones, since the time we were born until the day we die. Also, justification, transformation of life and perseverance, because it was the **purpose** and **grace** of God since before the world was created. **SO...REST!** When we believed in Jesus Christ we were granted the eternal forgiveness that was there for us since eternity. We entered this marvelous state of grace. We receive forgiveness even for the sins we haven't committed yet and we can glory and "exult in hope of the glory of God" Romans 5:2.

**2 Timothy 1:9**

Who has **saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was granted to us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.**

**Titus 1:2**

In the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised **long ages ago.**

**Colossians 2:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> And when **you were dead** in your trespasses and the uncleanness of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all trespasses,** <sup>14</sup> having **canceled the document of debt** consisting of decrees against us.

b. The New and Eternal Covenant promises a transformation of life through the new birth:

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

*So if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creature**; old things are passed away; Behold, **all are made new**.*

c. It gives us grace to **persevere** in His ways:

**Philippians 1:6** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you **will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus**.*

d. And it gives us the ability to **please Him and live in Holiness** doing the **good deeds that He prepared** beforehand that we should walk in them.

**Ephesians 2:10**

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which **God prepared beforehand** that we walk in them.*

**Philippians 2:13** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*For **it is God who is at work in you**, both **to will** and **to work** for His good pleasure. "*

e. On top of all that He **rewards** us for doing the good works He puts in front of us Ephesians 2:10, works in us the willingness to do them, and gives us the capacity to do them!

**1 Corinthians 3:11-14** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*<sup>11</sup> For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, **which is Jesus Christ**. <sup>12</sup> Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with **fire**, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If any man's work which he has built on it remains, **he will receive a reward**.*

f. Those good works will follow us in heaven for eternity:

**Revelation 14:13** New Living Translation (NLT)

*And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this down: Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they are blessed indeed, for they will rest from their hard work; for **their good deeds follow them!**"*

**4.** It called to my attention that in the oldest historical churches, when they invite the faithful to take of communion they say:

"TAKE AND DRINK YE ALL OF IT, BECAUSE THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE **NEW AND ETERNAL** COVENANT WHICH SHALL BE SHED FOR YOU AND FOR ALL MEN FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS IN COMMEMORATION OF ME."

Since childhood, I've heard our ministers only saying, "the blood of the New Covenant." I never heard them say Eternal Covenant. I found in the Scriptures that God's Covenant of Grace is called the **Everlasting Covenant**, in the Old and New Testament. This is why classic churches say, "**New and Eternal Covenant**." So, I decided to dig into this. The fact that we **seldom teach or preach about "the Eternal Covenant,"** tells us how ignorant we are of the most important message of

the Scriptures. **It's a central**, fundamental, central and main message, that God kept in secret until it was reveal to us through Jesus and explained by the Apostle Paul.

**Hebrews 13:20-21** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>20</sup> *Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the **blood of the eternal covenant**, even Jesus our Lord, <sup>21</sup> equip you in every good thing to do His will, **working in us that which is pleasing in His sight**, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.* (See also Isaiah 53:3, Jeremiah 32:40; 50:5, etc.)

**2 Timothy 1:9-10** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>9</sup> *Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which **was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity**, <sup>10</sup> but **now has been revealed** by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

**5. Now I understand that God and His Son** were the protagonists of this covenant because it was a covenant of grace done before time began within the Divine Trinity. We did not do anything. It was just God's purpose from before the ages. They made the covenant before we existed "according to the kind intention of His will" Ephesians 1:5 and as God called Abraham, at his time, He called each one of us and promise us forgiveness, etc., out of pure love of His Son Jesus and to us, the chosen ones. **Jesus fell in love with us before the foundation of the world and promised to do our part of the covenant paying the full price as needed in those days, to supply the requirements of the Old Covenant and be done with it, to give us by grace full and eternal salvation disregarding our trespasses.** This was agreed **before time began**, therefore Jesus became our Savior, Master, Lord, Friend and Bridegroom. Because of our connection with Him we become members of the family of God, and reign with Him forever; all by decision of the Divinity since the beginning of time.

The covenant was made **between the Father and the Son** before creating us and witnessed by the **Holy Spirit and maybe the angelical beings**. Jesus offered Himself before the foundation of the world as a sacrifice to seal the covenant with His blood, "**the blood of the New and Everlasting Covenant.**" We did not have to do anything except to just believe the Holy Trinity's promise with the faith that God gave us. Our eternal salvation does not depend on anything we did or did not do. God forgave us and saved us *motus proprio* before the ages. It is also called New Covenant, not because it is new but because it was kept secret as a mystery and was not revealed until the "appearance of our Savior Christ Jesus". The gospel is an **Eternal** Gospel.

**Revelation 14:6**

*And I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, having an **eternal Gospel** to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people.*

**2 Timothy 1:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to **His own purpose and grace** which was given to us in Jesus Christ **from all eternity**, <sup>10</sup> but **now has***

**been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus**, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

“His own purpose” means that God decided it. It was originated in His will. “Grace” means undeserved; given to us not by our works but by God’s decision and love. Justification is a forensic and legal pronouncement of God. We did not have to do something to get into the covenant because it is a Covenant of Grace. Abraham believed God and God counted his faith as righteousness, that is, as if he had never sinned. God acted as if Abram would have been perfect and had never sinned. He was “justified” by believing God’s covenant. We need to believe that God exists and that what He promised will happen as He told us. God made a promise that was born in Himself and His eternal purposes and would not depend at all on what Abraham did or did not do. He did not enter in the decision. God blessed Abraham and made a great nation without Abraham doing anything except **believing God’s promise**. God counted his faith as righteousness. Abraham did the least a person can do when promised a gift – to receive it.

As I studied Abraham, I found that **obedience and faith are spiritual synonyms**. As an example, let’s say, as soon as we moved to our new home, we receive a card in the mail that tells us at a certain place in our city, Tustin California, they were giving away free fertilizer. We believe it and so we got into the car and went. And just as the card promised, they give us two bags of fertilizer at no cost. Our faith in that promise motivated us to get into the car and go. It did not require any effort, we just went willingly and joyfully. It is faith that gives us the willingness to do God’s desires, but more... to be willing **to be part of God’s desires**. James says, show me your faith by your works James 2:17-23. James makes works a synonym of faith. Therefore, the sign of believing in Christ is a new life. The new life is a desire to be like Jesus. Faith and obedience are synonyms, “*And a great many of the priests were **becoming obedient to the faith**” Acts 6:7, the faith that God gives.*

**6. In our case**, God sealed the New and Eternal Covenant before time began with the blood of His Son Jesus our Savior, in the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Everlasting Covenant was decreed in eternity and for eternity. The Son did our part, and when we heard the Good News we, as did Abraham, believed it with the faith that God gave us, even the faith to believe was given to us by God Ephesians 2:8. God acted as if we would have lived a righteous life all our life, that is forgiveness, because our Savior Jesus Christ took on Himself our sins,

Isaiah 53:6

**All of us** like sheep have gone astray, **Each of us** has turned to his own way; But the LORD has **caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him**.

**GETHSEMANE.** Let us see somethings that Jesus went through to deliver us from hell what is part of the Covenant. He had to drink the awful cup that he hated to drink. What was in the cup of Gethsemane that Jesus didn’t want to drink? It must have been something very bad to ask God **three** times to avoid it.

<sup>39</sup> And He came out and proceeded as was His custom to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples also followed Him. <sup>40</sup> He arrived at the place, He said to them, "**Pray that you may not enter into temptation.**" (Evidently, that place was full of demons and Satan was there too) <sup>41</sup> And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." <sup>43</sup> Now **an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.** (evidently Jesus was weakened) <sup>44</sup> **And being in agony (a feeling of death) He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.** (his heart was starting to fail, Satan tried to kill Him before he got to the cross) <sup>45</sup> When He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping from sorrow, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not enter into temptation." <sup>47</sup> While He was still speaking, behold, a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was preceding them; and he approached Jesus to kiss Him.

Who thinks superficially, will say that Jesus was afraid of the cross. Many people died on crosses in those days, and later, when the soldiers came to get Him, Jesus did not act as a coward, he said I am the one you are looking for. No, He was not asking God to cancel the cross. There are many other scriptures that imply what Jesus had to go through, and it was something millions of times worse than the cross... What was in that cup?

#### 2 Corinthians 5:21

He **made Him** who **knew no sin to be sin on our behalf**, so that we might become the **righteousness of God in Him.**

**Jesus knew no sin.** He was born **without sin.** He was conceived by the **Holy Spirit**, born of a **Virgin.** He was **clean, transparent, spotless, innocent.** The horrible liquid in that cup was something much worse **than the cross**; It was something **bitter, horrible, unclean, nauseating, repellent, revolting** it was something that **made Him totally sick**; it was **our filthy sinful nature** that was **imposed to and into Him, with all of our sins.** He started to feel what we all would have to feel **eternally in hell.** To feel just to see and smell the Cup damaged his **stomach** to almost vomiting, and all his physical system. It was **the worst thing** that ever happened to this Saint! He believed and was afraid that to drink that filthy cup **would kill Him prematurely** and would not be able to make it to the Cross. **Satan** appeared believing that in that situation Jesus was guilty and therefore **belonged to Him**; this was his last chance and **He tried to Kill Him.** He became unclean and nauseating since that time for three days, until his resurrection. The father in his mercy **sent an angel** to strengthen Him.

What people were nailing to the cross was not only Jesus, but all our fallen race, with our shame, our iniquities, our sins. The soldiers that crucified Him, without knowing it, were killing our old sinful nature, and punishing the sins of humanity. **THEY NAILED JESUS TO THE CROSS WITH OUR SINFUL NATURE, WITH ALL OUR INIQUITIES!** Then

He went to the lower parts of the Earth, the world of the dead, He descended into hell to confront Satan, take away the keys of death from his hands and preach the Gospel to all the dead from Adam up to that moment, and resurrect with his Real Holy and eternal life that He had with the Father since before creation. And we, as we die in and with Him, were also resurrected in Him and with Him; not with the old nature but born again and **justified! WE WERE made God's RIGHTEOUSNESS in Him.**

Hebrews 5:7-9 Living Bible (TLB)

<sup>7</sup> Yet while Christ was here on earth he **pleaded with God**, praying **with tears and agony of soul to the only one who would save him from premature<sup>[a]</sup> death.** And God **heard his prayers** because of his **strong desire to obey God at all times.**

<sup>8</sup> And even though Jesus was God's Son, he **had to learn from experience what it was like to obey when obeying meant suffering.** <sup>9</sup> It was after he had proved himself perfect in this experience that **Jesus became the Giver of eternal salvation to all those who obey him.**

[Hebrews 5:7](#) *premature*, implied. Christ's longing was to live until he could die on the cross for all mankind. There is a strong case to be made that Satan's great desire was that Christ should die prematurely, before the mighty work at the cross could be performed. Christ's body, being human, was frail and weak like ours (except that his was sinless). He had said just a few moments before, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful *unto death.*" And can a human body live long under such pressure of spirit as he underwent in the Garden, that caused sweating of great drops of blood? But God graciously heard and answered his anguished cry in Gethsemane ("Let this cup pass from me") and preserved him from seemingly imminent and premature death: for an angel was sent to strengthen him so that he could live to accomplish God's perfect will at the cross. But some readers may prefer the explanation that Christ's plea was that he be saved *out from death* at the resurrection. (Bible Gateway)

**Gethsemane**, the **cross** and the **resurrection**, are the three main elements that produced our eternal salvation. Jesus made our side of the Covenant. Gethsemane and the cross is what we should had to go through. The resurrection of Jesus completed the drama. The **resurrection is always associated with our justification.**

Here are some scriptures that underline the tremendous meaning of the Resurrection of Christ and us in Him.

<sup>1</sup> Peter 3:21 Revised Standard Version (RSV)

<sup>21</sup> *Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.***

Romans 4:25 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> *He was delivered over to death for our sins<sup>(A)</sup> and was **raised to life for our justification** He crucified our old sinful nature with him and **resurrected us righteous***

<sup>1</sup> Peter 1:3 Revised Standard Version (RSV)

<sup>3</sup> **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

Ephesians 2:5-6 Revised Standard Version (RSV)

<sup>5</sup> **even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**

This means that the deal is done we are securely saved.

Colossians 3:1-3 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

**3 Therefore if you have been <sup>(A)</sup>raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, <sup>(B)</sup>seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2 [a](C)</sup>Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have <sup>(D)</sup>died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

**Could there be a safer place than “hidden with Christ in God”?**

Colossians 2:12 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>12</sup> **having been <sup>(A)</sup>buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also <sup>(B)</sup>raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who <sup>(C)</sup>raised Him from the dead.**

b. Beloved, there is nothing more secure than our Salvation:

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>26</sup> **For <sup>[a]</sup>consider your <sup>(A)</sup>calling, brethren, that there were <sup>(B)</sup>not many wise according to <sup>[b]</sup>the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; <sup>27</sup> but <sup>(C)</sup>God has chosen the foolish things of <sup>(D)</sup>the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of <sup>(E)</sup>the world to shame the things which are strong, <sup>28</sup> and the base things of <sup>(F)</sup>the world and the despised God has chosen, <sup>(G)</sup>the things that are not, so that He may <sup>(H)</sup>nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that <sup>(I)</sup>no <sup>[c]</sup>man may boast before God. <sup>30</sup> But <sup>[d]</sup>by His doing you are in <sup>(J)</sup>Christ Jesus, who became to us <sup>(K)</sup>wisdom from God, <sup>[e]</sup>and <sup>(L)</sup>righteousness and <sup>(M)</sup>sanctification, and <sup>(N)</sup>redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, just as it is written, “<sup>(O)</sup>LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”**

Evidently, God knew the quality of the people he selected, we are secured.

We share now His righteousness, that is, we are accepted by God as if we never had sin. He did not take upon Himself just our sins, **but our whole sinful nature!** the whole of ourselves, we were crucified with Him, died with Him, were buried with Him and resurrected with Him to become like Him and started a new creation.

Galatians 2:20 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

**I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.**

**Romans 6:3-8, 11** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been **baptized into His death?** <sup>4</sup> Therefore we have been **buried with Him** through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too **might walk in newness of life.** <sup>5</sup> For if we have become **united with Him in the likeness of His death,** certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our **old self was crucified with Him,** in order that **our body of sin might be done away with,** so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for he who has died is **freed from sin.** <sup>8</sup> Now **if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.** <sup>11</sup> Even so **consider yourselves to be dead to sin,** but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

c. He **buried** us with Him, **raised** us up with Him, **buried** all our sins, **canceled all our spiritual debt** Colossians 2:14 and **delivered us from the Satanic powers** and authorities who had us captives. This is a radical procedure, He totally cut us out of Adam race, and placed us in Christ new race. 2 Corinthians 5:17.

*Colossians 1:13* For **He rescued** us from the domain of darkness, and **transferred** us to the kingdom of His Beloved Son.

**Colossians 2:12-13**, New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>12</sup> Having been **buried with Him in baptism,** in which you were also **raised up with Him** through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> When **you were dead** in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive** together with Him, **having forgiven** us all our transgressions.

d. Jesus bled on the cross, such as the animals' witnesses of the ancient Covenants.

**He shed part of His blood on this earth.**

**John 19:34**

*But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately **blood and water** came out.*

We had to do nothing in the covenant, only remembering it now in the Lord's Supper.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**The other part of His blood was to pay the ransom to Satan when he descended into hell.**

**Hebrews 2:14-15,**

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that **through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death,** that is, **the devil,** <sup>15</sup> and might **free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.**

**Colossians 1:13**

For He **rescued us from the domain of darkness**, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.

**And another part He took to heaven as an eternal remembrance of the covenant.**

**Hebrews 9:12**

And not through the blood of goats and calves, but **through His own blood**, He entered the **holy place once for all**, having obtained **eternal redemption**.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>30</sup> *It is because of him that **you are in Christ Jesus**, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, **our righteousness, holiness and redemption**. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."*

The Blood of Jesus is the witness of the Eternal Covenant in heaven, in hell and on earth; the covenant that God made in eternity for the elect. We did nothing in the covenant. Jesus made our part. Only **believe** His promise with the faith that **He also gave us. WOW!** When we opened our heart to receive Christ, all these things happened to us, better said, happened to Jesus and He endorsed then to us.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>8</sup> *For by grace you have been saved **through faith; and that not of yourselves**, (even the faith to believe was given to us by God,) **it is the gift of God;** <sup>9</sup> **not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.***

e. He predestined, called, justified, glorified and guides us by His Spirit Romans 8:29-30. He made us the Bride of Christ, to be part of His family and gave us eternal life, and reign with Him; all because He, full of grace and love, purposed it in Himself... and nothing nor anybody can separate us from His love.

**Romans 8:33-39** J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)

<sup>33-34</sup> **Who would dare to accuse us**, whom God has chosen? **The judge himself has declared us free from sin.** Who is in a position to condemn? **Only Christ, and Christ died for us**, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us! <sup>35-36</sup> *Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, pain or persecution? Can lack of clothes and food, danger to life and limb, the threat of force of arms? Indeed some of us know the truth of the ancient text: 'For your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter'.* <sup>37</sup> *No, in all these things we win an overwhelming victory through him who has proved his love for us.* <sup>38-39</sup> *I have become absolutely convinced that neither death nor life, neither messenger of Heaven nor monarch of earth, neither what happens today nor what may happen tomorrow, neither a power from on high nor a power from below, **nor anything else in God's whole world has any power to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord!***

Here we can also apply the words of Paul:

**Hebrews 6:17-20**

<sup>17</sup> *God wouldn't change his plan. He wanted to make this perfectly clear to those who would receive His promise, so **he took an oath.** <sup>18</sup> God did this so that we would be encouraged. **God cannot lie when he takes an oath or makes a promise. These two things can never be changed** **promise and oath.** Those of us who have taken refuge in Him hold on to the confidence we have been given.*

<sup>19</sup> We have this confidence as a sure and **strong anchor for our lives**. This confidence goes into the holy place behind the curtain <sup>20</sup> where Jesus went before us on our behalf. He has become the chief priest forever in the way Melchizedek was a priest.

**7.** Every time we take communion, we remember the covenant that Jesus sealed with His blood. Now we know the meaning of what we are doing when the pastor, ministering the Lord's Supper says:

"TAKE AND DRINK YE ALL OF IT, BECAUSE THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE **NEW AND ETERNAL** COVENANT WHICH SHALL BE SHED FOR YOU AND FOR ALL MEN FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS IN COMMEMORATION OF ME." I believe that most of the members of the Church do not know this truth, otherwise communion should last longer and be surrounded by meditation, self-examination, confession and getting a clear sense of security.

**This marvelous and unique Eternal Covenant** is what we commemorate when we participate in Holy Communion knowing that we go to celebrate the covenant by which God decided to disregard all our sins and accept us as we are, **we also will discipline ourselves to ignore all the offences of our offenders** Matthew 6:12, "and forgive us our offences as we forgive those who offend us," accept them as they are, take communion after we have reconciled with our offenders. The One who ignored yours and my offences, has also ignored the offences of our offender.

**1 Corinthians 11:28** Good News Translation (GNT)

*So then, you should each **examine yourself first**, and then eat the bread and drink from the cup.*

Dying on the cross, Jesus also fulfilled for us what the Law of Moses required from us as trespassers of the Law:

**Hebrews 10:28** Good News Translation (GNT)

*Anyone who **disobeys** the Law of Moses **is put to death without any mercy** when judged guilty from the evidence of two or more witnesses.*

Christ died for us, so He paid the penalty of the Law for us. We owe nothing to the Law.

**Roman 5:8**

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while **we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us.*

a. Jesus delivered us from the slavery of sin and Satan:

**Colossians 2:13-15** Living Bible (TLB)

<sup>13</sup> You were dead in sins, and your sinful desires were not yet cut away. Then He gave you a share in the very life of Christ, for He forgave all your sins, <sup>14</sup> and blotted out the charges proved against you, the list of his commandments, which you had not obeyed. He took this list of sins and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross <sup>15</sup> In this way **God took away Satan's power to accuse you of sin**, and God openly displayed to the whole world Christ's triumph at the cross where your sins were all taken away.

b. He **dispossessed and disarmed Satan** and delivered us from his yoke by **paying the ransom he asked**. How can you legally dispossess Bill Gates from his Microsoft company? By paying the price he asks. Jesus paid the ransom to Satan, the price he asked, His blood.

**1 Timothy 2:6** New International Version (NIV) ... *who gave himself as a **ransom for all people**.*

Also, He delivered us from our fear of death.

Hebrews 2:14-15 New International Version (NIV) <sup>14</sup> *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their **fear of death**.*

c. He also delivered us from the fear of death giving us eternal life:

**Hebrews 2:14-15** Living Bible (TLB)

<sup>14</sup> *Since we, God's children, are human beings — made of flesh and blood — He became flesh and blood too by being born in human form; for only as a human being could He die and in dying **break the power of the devil** who had the power of death. <sup>15</sup> Only in that way could He **deliver those who through fear of death have been living all their lives as slaves to constant dread**.*

d. And rescued us from the power of darkness:

**Colossians 1:13** New International Version (NIV)

*For He has rescued us **from the dominion of darkness** and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves.*

**Colossians 2:15** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*When He had **disarmed the rulers and authorities**, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.*

e. Our Savior and lover seized the keys of death and hell from Satan:

**Revelation 1:18** New International Version (NIV)

*I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am **alive forever and ever!** And **I hold the keys of death and Hades**.*

**8. The Eternal Covenant of Grace** was formalized before we were born and we had done neither good nor bad.

**Roman 9:11**

*For though the twins **were not yet born** and **had not done anything good or bad**, so that God's **purpose** according to **His choice** would stand, **not because of works** but **because of Him who calls**.*

because God already knew us!

**Romans 8:29**

*For those whom **He foreknew**, He also predestined to become **conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Jesus died on the cross a long time before I was born. How could He know all my sins if I hadn't done any on that day or before? **Oh, yes, He knew all of them!** God knew **all our sins**, past, present and future before I was born. Therefore, Jesus paid for all of them, **even for the sins we haven't done yet**. I hear evangelists say that when we believe in Christ all our past sins are forgiven... what happens with our **future** sins? If only our sins we committed before we were saved are forgiven and from that day on everything depends on us, we would be lost anyway! God knew all of them and Jesus dealt with it before the foundation of the world. When we believe, we enter into a state of grace.

**Romans 5:2**

*Through whom also we have obtained our **introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we **exult in hope of the glory of God.*****

**Titus 1:2-3, 3:7** New Living Translation (NLT)

<sup>2</sup> *This truth gives them confidence that they **have eternal life**, which God — who does not lie — **promised them before the world began.** <sup>3</sup> And **now** at just the right time **He has revealed this message**, which we announce to everyone. It is by the command of God our Savior that I have been entrusted with this work for Him. <sup>3:7</sup> Because of His grace **He declared us righteous** and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.*

**Ephesians 1:3-5** New Living Translation (NLT)

<sup>3</sup> *All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because **we are united with Christ.** <sup>4</sup> Even **before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ** to be holy and without fault in His eyes. <sup>5</sup> **God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family** by bringing us to Himself **through Jesus Christ.** This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.*

**9. A covenant is a sworn promise.** The promise of grace is a promise that no one asked for, or begged, or even dreamed or desired it, because it was agreed upon before we were born, among the members of the Holy Trinity. God himself unilaterally before our creation, without us intervening, **decided it so** Ephesians 1:4, Titus 1:2, 2 Timothy 1:9, Romans 16:25.

“Agape” (*love in Greek*) is the full outpouring of a person's whole being to another without interest of receiving anything in return. He loves us with agape love. **He is sovereign** because He created us and we belong to Him, **and He is love and grace** because He is the Father of His creation and loves us. We should learn from God how to love others unconditionally.

a. Paul illustrates the **sovereignty** and pure **grace** of God with the case of Rebecca and their twins Jacob and Esau: This Scripture affirms that God is sovereign. He does unimageable things.

**Romans 9:10-22** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>10</sup> And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; <sup>11</sup> **for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,** <sup>12</sup> it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." <sup>13</sup> Just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." <sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! <sup>15</sup> For He says to Moses, **"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."** <sup>16</sup> **So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.** <sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth." <sup>18</sup> So then **He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.** <sup>19</sup> You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?" <sup>20</sup> On the contrary, **who are you, O man, who answers back to God?** The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? <sup>21</sup> Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? <sup>22</sup> What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?

Did you get it?

This seems unjust but Paul says it is not. Why? Because God is **sovereign** and has the right to do what He pleases. He can forgive sinners like us and count our acceptance of His love for righteousness, which also sounds unjust. Sovereignty means that God, as the ruler of the Universe, has the right to do whatever He wants. Further, He is in complete control over everything that happens. He is accountable to no one. There is no one over Him. He always was, is, and ever will be **sovereign** God and always was, is, and ever will be the **Father of Grace** for those he chooses. God is like this, not like we would think Him to be! The covenant that the Triune Divinity made before creating us rules **from eternity to eternity** because **it is eternal**. The Gospel, or good news, is therefore an **Everlasting Gospel**. This is clearly stated by John:

**Revelation 14:6** New International Version (NIV)

*Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had **the eternal gospel** to proclaim to those who live on the earth — to every nation, tribe, language and people.*

b. The everlasting gospel **exists from before the ages;** is, and will be **forever**. Therefore, the Scripture says: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." This is what we remember and celebrate when we participate in Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, a covenant that **is new for us** but **eternal for God**.

**10. I think that Law and Grace** are an **antinomy**. When we compare the Law of Moses with Grace it is totally the opposite. When we compare God as **Moses** presented Him, and God as **Jesus** presented Him to us, there is such a huge difference! They don't even seem to be the same God. The God that Moses presented is jealous and vengeful, and taught the Israelites to hate their enemies

**Matthew 5:43-44**

You have heard that it was said, you shall love your neighbor and **hate your enemy**. But I say to you, **love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.** (Jesus)

The God of the Old Testament cursed harshly those who disobeyed His Law (see Deuteronomy 28:15-68.). In the New Testament Jesus liberate us from those curses, so the Son seems to be working against his Father Matthew 5:21-48.

**Galatians 3:13**

Christ **redeemed us from the curse of the Law,** having become a curse for us—for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE."

Satan cause Jesus to be crucify and cursed on the Cross. Jesus did that for us; to deliver us from the curse of the Law.

The Law of Moses was a **circumstantial and temporary covenant** and was given as a punishment to a rebellious people.

**Galatians 3:19**

Why the Law then? It was **added because of transgressions,** having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, **until the seed would come** to whom the promise had been made.

The Law ruled until Christ came and the revelation of His grace happened. Law and Grace don't work together. The old covenant of the Law was not an Eternal Covenant but a transitory one, it was a temporary punishment. The father of Jesus, the Eternal God, is a God of love and grace who commands us to love our enemies and bless those who curse us Matthew 5:44. Grace shows the true character of God. The way that Moses presented God is not the Eternal God in His normal state, but God acting in a crisis, punishing Israel temporarily for their transgressions and making humankind become conscious of the need for grace, in order to show later his love. Moses **did not know God** as He is in His normal character, **Jesus did.**

**John 1:17-18** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>17</sup> For the Law was given through Moses; **grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.** <sup>18</sup> **No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.**

The Law was a discipline, a punishment. God was acting according to the necessity of the moment.

**Galatians 3:19**

Why the Law then? It was added because of **transgressions,** having been **ordained through angels** by the agency of a mediator (Moses), until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

The purpose of the Law was to demonstrate to humankind that we **would never be able to reach to the level of justification** that God deserves and requires, and experience the **need of something more radical and better than the Law: Grace!** And at the same time, God can **demonstrate the great antimony,** that is: **His Holiness** and justice, and at the same time **His Love for sinners like us.**

**Romans 5:20**

The Law came in so that the **transgression would increase**; but where **sin increased, grace abounded all the more**.

"Antinomy" is a pair of apparently contradictory propositions, conclusively proved to be both true. An antinomy demands solution. Kant considers that the antinomies indicate the proper limits of human reason." (*The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology*) Which means that God, the Creator of the Universe, is a mystery impossible to totally understand *as it is in the next reading*: The Scriptures have **many** antinomies, one clear example:

**Romans 9:10-23** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>10</sup> And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; <sup>11</sup> for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, <sup>12</sup> it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER." <sup>13</sup> Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED." <sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! <sup>15</sup> For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION." <sup>16</sup> So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. <sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH." <sup>18</sup> So then **He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.** <sup>19</sup> You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? **For who resists His will?**" <sup>20</sup> On the contrary, **who are you, O man, who answers back to God?** The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? <sup>21</sup> Or **does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?** <sup>22</sup> What if God, although **willing to demonstrate His wrath** and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of **wrath prepared for destruction?** <sup>23</sup> And He did so **to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory.**

God really hated Esau:(¿?) from before he was born, before he did good nor wrong. Jacob was not much better than Esau!

**Malachi 1:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet **I have loved Jacob;** <sup>3</sup> **but I have hated Esau,** and **I have made his mountains a desolation, and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness.**" <sup>4</sup> Though Edom (Esau's land) says, "We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins"; thus says the LORD of hosts, "**They may build, but I will tear down;** and men will call them the **wicked territory, and the people toward whom the LORD is indignant forever.**"



Paul concludes this antinomy with:

**Romans 11:32-36** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>32</sup> For **God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all.** <sup>33</sup> Oh, the **depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!** How **unsearchable** are His judgments and **unfathomable** His ways! <sup>34</sup> For, OR **WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?** <sup>35</sup> Or **WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM** THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? <sup>36</sup> For **from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.** To **Him be the glory forever. Amen.**

We must accept antinomies as both ideas being right instead of twisting it, because God is the author of them. God is as He is. For reading the Scriptures without accepting what is "inscrutable, unsearchable, mysterious, undiscoverable; who can understand His thoughts?" (*Amplified Bible*) we have so many denominations and fight for different ideas because sometimes the Scriptures differ. No, we cannot beat God. He is not like us. He is mysterious, sovereign and incomprehensible. To understand God, we would need a superior God than the God we have. Only a superior God could explain our actual God.

I have found sometimes that some antinomies complement each other. I look for these because I believe that **all the Holy Scripture is sacred**. Example: The Scriptures are very clear that people will be judged according to their works, while other Scriptures say that salvation is not by works but by grace.

### **Judged not by works:**

**Ephesians 2:8-9** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

<sup>9</sup> **not as a result of works,** so that no one may boast.

**Titus 3:5** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

He saved us, **not on the basis of deeds** which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

**2 Timothy 1:9** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, **not according to our works**, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.

**Romans 4:4-8** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. <sup>5</sup> But to the one who **does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness**, <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom **God credits righteousness apart from works**: <sup>7</sup> "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE **LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.** <sup>8</sup> "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD **WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.**"

## **Judged by works:**

**Romans 2:6** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Who WILL RENDER TO **EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.**

**2 Corinthians 11:15** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be **according to their deeds.**

**Revelation 2:23** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you **according to your deeds.**

**Revelation 20:12-13** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them **according to their deeds.**

If **both** Scriptures are **true**, I understand that the Elected are saved by **grace** and the rest of humankind will be judged by **works**, therefore, **both are right** though they appear to be a contradiction. (See my thesis No. 7 "THE BOOK OF LIFE AND THE BOOKS OR WORKS" which deals with this antimony) [www.juancarlosortiz.org](http://www.juancarlosortiz.org)

## **11. Let us go back to our main theme: The Eternal Covenant.**

But God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today and forever <sup>Hebrews 13:8</sup> and He is faithful and loves us, so He will keep his covenant with Abraham and with us notwithstanding our behavior. But Grace will **help** us to be holy, but also **forgive** our failures in the process, just as we do with our children we help them to improve but forgive every time they fail. The transitory covenants express God's temper during **special situations**, but the Eternal Covenant shows the **real continual** constant character of God, his real pattern of conduct.

**Hebrews 13:20-21** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace, who **through the blood of the eternal covenant** brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> **equip you with everything good** for doing His will, and may He **work in us what is pleasing** to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Revelation 14:6** New International Version (NIV)

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had **the eternal gospel** (good news) to proclaim to those who live on the earth — to every nation, tribe, language and people.

a. Notice that the **blood** that seals the Everlasting Covenant **in the eternal plan of God** was offered **since the beginning** of the world, from before the world began and executed in the Son of God incarnation:

**Revelation 13:8** New International Version (NIV)

The Lamb who was slain **from the creation of the world.**

b. Also note that the church of the elected, with Jesus Christ as husband, will celebrate the Lord's supper with the wine and bread **for eternity** in the Kingdom of heaven because His body was sacrificed to seal this Everlasting Covenant and His blood is the witness of that covenant which rules from eternity to eternity. Even in heaven we will celebrate the New and Eternal Covenant, the Eucharist, forever and ever because this eternal covenant is the core, fundamental, principal and primary substance of history!

**Matthew 26:29** New International Version (NIV)

I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until **that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.**

c. Many things of this earth will cease when we enter eternity **but the love of God of Grace** and sacrifice of the Son of God will never cease to exist and be present:

**1 Corinthians 13:8-10** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>8</sup> **Love never fails;** but if there are gifts of **prophecy,** they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is **knowledge,** it will be done away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part; <sup>10</sup> but **when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.**

**His love and the celebration of His body and His blood, celebrating God's Eternal Covenant,** started before creation and **will never cease.** All the other covenants of Scripture, even the famous Law of Moses that is called the **Old Covenant,** was **temporary and circumstantial** pact, which **began and ended** because they were destined to disappear with their use Colossians 2:22 and **will not be celebrated in heaven,** because "what is imperfect will end" 1 Corinthians 13:10. But yes, there will be celebration of the Everlasting Covenant, and everybody will sing forever from the heavenly hymnal, the song of the Lamb of God and the blood of Christ.

**Revelation 5:9-14**

<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying: "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for **You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.** <sup>10</sup> You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." <sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and

the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, "**Worthy is the Lamb that was slain** to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." <sup>13</sup> And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." <sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Because the perfect and Eternal Covenant **reveals the true character of God**, Jesus and His blood sacrifice will be remembered for eternity:

**Revelation 1:5-6** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>5</sup> ... and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and **released us from our sins by His blood** — <sup>6</sup> and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father — to Him be the glory and the dominion **forever and ever**. Amen.

**Revelation 5:9-14** Good News Translation (GNT)

<sup>9</sup> They sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to break open its seals.

For you were killed, and by your **sacrificial death** you bought for God people from every tribe, language, nation, and race.

<sup>10</sup> You have made them a kingdom of priests to serve our God, and they shall rule on earth."

<sup>11</sup> Again I looked, and I heard angels, thousands and millions of them! They stood around the throne, the four living creatures, and the elders, <sup>12</sup> and sang in a loud voice:

"The Lamb who **was killed** is worthy to receive power, wealth, wisdom, and strength, honor, glory, and praise!"

<sup>13</sup> And I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, in the world below, and in the sea — all living beings in the universe — and they were singing:

"To Him who sits on the throne and to the **Lamb**, be praise and honor, glory and might, forever and ever!"

<sup>14</sup> The four living creatures answered, "Amen!" And the elders fell and worshiped.

The body and the Blood of Christ, the Eternal Covenant, will be celebrated forever and ever! The Old Covenant of the Law of Moses, will **not be remembered** there, **only the New and Eternal Covenant** will be remembered forever in Heaven.

**12.** It is **sad that in the Church we have mingled** circumstantial, perishable and transient pacts with the Eternal Covenant. Preachers take any part of the Old Testament and use it with the same authority as the New Testament. Though circumstantial pacts have ended their mission they continue to contaminate and muddy the Everlasting Covenant that produces peace, security and rest. The pacts with Adam, Noah, Moses, David, etc., ruled for a time and were related to temporal, material and temporary matters. All the promises and punishments were for this temporary life and had a beginning and an end, even the Law of Moses, under the eternal covenant all the promises are spiritual, celestial and eternal, why? Because

we live under an Eternal Covenant. the **Old** Covenants, are not active now for us, because it was **replaced by Christ** covenant.

**Hebrews 8:13**

*When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first **obsolete**. But **whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear**.*

Are we getting it? The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ **replaced** the Law:

**John 5:39-40**

*<sup>39</sup> You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; **it is these that testify about Me**; <sup>40</sup> **and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life**.*

Many preachers today, preach everything which is in the Bible forgetting that many things were transitory and have finished. This **pollutes grace** Colossians 2:8, 14-16, 20-23.

**Hebrews 1:1-2**

*<sup>1</sup> God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup> **in these last days has spoken to us in His Son**, whom He appointed **heir of all things, through whom also He made the world**.*

**Galatians 3:19** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*Why the Law then? **It was added** because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, **until** the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.*

The Law was a **temporary punishment**. Note that the law "**was added**" at one point because of circumstances, "**transgressions**" of the people of God. This means that the law was a punishment for their behavior, God disciplining his children.

**Hebrews 12:5-7**

*<sup>5</sup> And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; <sup>6</sup> FOR **THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES**, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." <sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you **as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?***

That punishment was caused by a need, the punishment was **transitory and ended** when "the seed to whom the promise was made" came, which is Christ Galatians 3:16 and His revelation of the new and Eternal Covenant of Grace. Disciplines are temporary punishments but **do not** alter our eternal salvation like the misbehavior of our children, we may punish them, but do not affect our love and do not affect their belonging to the family:

**1 Corinthians 11:32** *But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will **not be condemned along with the world**.*

**1 Corinthians 5:1-5**

*<sup>1</sup> It is actually reported that there is **immorality among you**, and immorality **of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles**, that someone has his father's wife. <sup>2</sup> You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed **would be removed from your midst**. <sup>3</sup> For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, **have already judged him who***

has so committed this, as though I were present. <sup>4</sup> In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, <sup>5</sup> I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, **so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus**. Read also 1corinthians 11:29-32.

#### **1 Corinthians 3:12-15**

<sup>12</sup> Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; **but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.**

**John 1:17** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

For the Law was given through Moses; **grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.**

Now we are not under Law, but under Grace. The Law was temporary, Grace is eternal:

**Romans 6:14** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

For sin shall not be master over you, for you **are not** under Law but **under grace.**

#### **Prohibition produce curiosity.**

1 Corinthians 15:56 Good News Translation (GNT) <sup>56</sup> Death gets its power to hurt from sin, and **sin gets its power from the Law.**

**Romans 7:4-6** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> Therefore, my brethren, **you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.** <sup>5</sup> For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were **aroused by the Law,** were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. <sup>6</sup> But **now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.**

b. In the New Covenant we are no longer guided by the Letter but **by the Spirit of Christ.** The Spirit of Christ replaced the Law. It is a pity that we were not taught from the beginning to live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit, notice that the Law did not die, but we died to the Law in Christ Romans 7:4.

Galatians 5:16-18, 25 Good News Translation (GNT)

<sup>16</sup> What I say is this: **let the Spirit direct your lives,** and you will not satisfy the desires of the human nature. <sup>17</sup> For what our human nature wants is opposed to what the Spirit wants, and what the Spirit wants is opposed to what our human nature wants. These two are enemies, and this means that you cannot do what you want to do. <sup>18</sup> **If the Spirit leads you, then you are not subject to the Law.** <sup>25</sup> The **Spirit has given us life; he must also control our lives.**

2 Corinthians 3:3, 6, 18 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>3</sup> being manifested that **you are** a letter of Christ, <sup>[a]</sup> 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 <sup>[b]</sup>human hearts.** <sup>6</sup> 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.** <sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled

face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as **from the Lord, the Spirit**.

Christ **fulfilled** the Law in the sense that according to the Law we were supposed to die and Christ died for us fulfilling the demands of the Law. We were crucified and buried with Christ Romans 6:3-4.

**Matthew 5:17, 20** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>17</sup> Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish **but to fulfill...** <sup>20</sup> For I say to you that unless your **righteousness surpasses** that of the scribes and Pharisees, **you will not enter** the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus did not abolish the Law, but freed us from the law making us die with Him,

Romans 7:4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to **die to the Law through the body of Christ**, so that you might be joined to **another**, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

And only those who have received the **righteousness of Christ** by pure grace, can **exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees**; because "by the works of the Law **no one will be justified.**"

**Galatians 2:16**

Nevertheless knowing that a man **is not justified by the works of the Law** but through **faith in Christ Jesus**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be **justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law**; since **by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified**.

We are justified by faith in Christ.

**Romans 5:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**, <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have obtained **our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand**; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

## Who is our justification?

**1 Corinthians 1:30**

But by His doing **you are in Christ Jesus**, who **became to us wisdom from God and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption**, so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, **BOAST IN THE LORD.**"

The righteousness, wisdom, sanctification and redemption of Jesus replaced the righteousness required by the Law.

The Law, our old husband, did not die. It is alive and well. It is **us who have died** to the Law to belong to another husband: **JESUS!** Now we are "the **called of Jesus Christ**" Romans 1:6. We now have the righteousness of Christ, our new husband. He fulfilled the requirements of the Law for us. We deserved death for our transgressions, but He died for us and makes us die with Him, fulfilling all the requirements of the

Law; consequently, Jesus said: "I came to fulfill the Law (in the place of Juan Carlos)" Matthew 5:17.

**13. The Law offered us temporal blessings** if we obeyed, but they were all material and temporary, only for here and now.

**Deuteronomy 28:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God: <sup>3</sup> Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. <sup>4</sup> Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. <sup>5</sup> Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. <sup>6</sup> Blessed shall you be when you come in, and shall you be when you go out.

Compare these to Jesus blessings which are all celestial, eternal and infinite.

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with **every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ**, <sup>4</sup> just as He **chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we would be **holy and blameless** before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to **adoption as sons through Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the **praise of the glory of His grace**, which He **freely bestowed on us** in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have **redemption** through His blood, the **forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us. In all **wisdom and insight** <sup>9</sup> He made known to us the **mystery of His will**, according to His **kind intention** which **He purposed in Him** <sup>10</sup> with a view to an **administration suitable to the fullness of the times**, that is, the summing up of **all things in Christ**, things **in the heavens and things on the earth**. In Him <sup>11</sup> also we have **obtained an inheritance**, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to **the praise of His glory**. <sup>13</sup> In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, **you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise**, <sup>14</sup> who is given as a **pledge of our inheritance**, with a view to the **redemption of God's own possession**, to the praise of His glory.

**14.** The Everlasting Covenant is an agreement that although it gives us love, joy and peace in this life through the fruit of the Spirit, emphasizes the most important: the spiritual, invisible and eternal nature of our future life, why? Because we live under **an eternal covenant**. What will be more important 90 to 100 years here or eternity? Grace help us to live here in this valley of tears with victory and eternity with glory **without end**. All the blessings, curses and threats of the Law were for here in this world. All the blessings of Grace are celestial and eternal, Paul said:

**Hebrews 8:6**

*But now, Jesus has been given priestly work which is superior to theirs, just as **the covenant which he arranged between God and His people is a better one, because it is based on promises of better things**. **ETERNAL THINGS!***

**1 Corinthians 15:19**

**And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are the most worthy of pity around the world.**

a. The Eternal Covenant **deals with eternal things that are spiritual and invisible**, last forever, and wait for us in eternity. Therefore, it is far superior to the Law, which only offered longer life on Earth, better harvests and earthly blessings all of which are material and temporary Deuteronomy 28:1-14. Even the curses of the Law of Moses were about material and temporary things Deuteronomy 28:15-68. The Everlasting Covenant is the only one that **promises eternal life and spiritual blessings** for ever, and tells us that we must seek first the Kingdom of God and the other temporal things will be added to us. Transitory pacts were only for here and now. Everything ended at death and remain here and there was no clarity about life after death.

Only Jesus says: "He who believes in me... **has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day**" John 6:40. And "This is why I tell you: do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn't life worth more than food? And isn't the body worth more than clothes? Seek ye **first the kingdom of God** and all these other things will be added unto you" Matthew 6:25, 33.

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18** Good News Translation (GNT)

<sup>16</sup> For this reason we never become discouraged. Even though our physical being is gradually decaying, yet **our spiritual being is renewed day after day.** <sup>17</sup> And this small and temporary trouble we suffer will **bring us a tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble.** <sup>18</sup> For we fix our attention, **not on things that are seen**, but on **things that are unseen**. What **can be seen lasts only for a time**, but **what cannot be seen lasts forever**.

The Everlasting Covenant is like a net underneath all the other temporary covenants, so when people fail to keep it and fall, they fall on the net of the Eternal Covenant. The Eternal Covenant precedes from before the ages and continues until eternity, overlaps and overpasses all the transitory ones, because the Eternal Covenant exists from eternity to eternity. It is in this Covenant of Grace, not in the temporary covenants, that **God reveals His true character of love**. We are going to see Noah, Moses, David, Solomon, etc. in heaven, thanks to the Eternal Covenant. The Law of Moses does not show the true character of God, it makes God look like a tyrant, but "the Lord is patient toward you, not willing that any should perish" 2 Peter 3:9 and according to Paul "as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse" Galatians 3:10, Deuteronomy 28:15-68. **None of the circumstantial and temporary covenants reveals the true character of God.** Under those covenants God acted according to the needs of the moment. Only the **Eternal Covenant shows the true constant character of God.**

b. If you only see a parent **in a moment when he spanks his son** without seeing the entire history of that parent, you may think that he is an **abusive parent**. But that father is not always spanking, that spanking is circumstantial. **The Law of Moses is a circumstantial spank of God to Israel** for their transgressions Galatians 3:19, but underneath the discipline is the net of the Eternal Covenant. **God's true and eternal character is reflected not in the circumstantial slap when God is angry** Genesis 6:6-7, **but in the Eternal Covenant of Grace, where we know God was in his normal state, such as He is from eternity to eternity.** In the

circumstantial slap, He is revealing His justice and that He has character. In the Eternal Covenant, He reveals His true character of love. **God is love!** I believe that He created us to show His real character.

**Ephesians 2:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of **His great love with which He loved us**, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come **He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus**. In other words, "that He might show is real personality, his real character.

Grace is undeserved love. If He wants to show the surpassing riches of His grace He needs an undeserved race. So, God created us to show His real character, **grace**. And we are helping Him a lot! This was premeditated before the ages. It will endure for eternity and will reveal the **eternal nature of the Eternal God who is also a Father of Grace**. This is the true character of God and is what we will explain with our unmerited salvation to the "angelic rulers and powers in the heavenly world":

**Ephesians 3:10**

So that the manifold wisdom of God **might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places**.

"manifold wisdom" means a wisdom of many colors. God's wisdom is not black and white like ours. Maybe we will never understand His wisdom.

**The true character of God is Grace**, not Law! He is a Father, not a despot! We parent know how a father loves his children, and forgives them all their offences and treats them as if they were the best kids! Though, occasionally, the parents get angry and spansks them...

**Ephesians 3:8-12** Good News Translation (GNT)

<sup>8</sup> I am less than the least of all God's people; yet God gave me this privilege of taking to the Gentiles the **Good News about the infinite riches of Christ**, <sup>9</sup> and of **making all people see how God's secret plan is to be put into effect**. God, who is the Creator of all things, kept his secret hidden through all the past ages, <sup>10</sup> in order that at the present time, **by means of the church, the angelic rulers and powers in the heavenly world might learn of his wisdom in all its different forms**.

<sup>11</sup> God did this **according to his eternal purpose, which he achieved through Christ Jesus our Lord**. <sup>12</sup> In union with Christ and through our faith in Him we have the boldness to go into God's presence with all confidence.

Had it not been for the **Everlasting** Covenant, neither Abraham, or Isaac, or Jacob, or David, or Solomon, or any Jew or Gentile, or any saint of the Old Testament would be in **heaven by their works**. David should have been executed for adultery and homicide, but God covered him with grace, notwithstanding the Law. For a Father Creator, there are no Israelites and Gentiles. He loves all He has made. All of us come from Adam and Eve. Even during the Law God acted in grace Romans 4:3-12, because that is His nature: "God is love" 1 John 4:8.

Romans 4:6-8 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> Just as **David** also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup> **"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED."** <sup>8</sup> **"BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT."**

c. The Everlasting Covenant is like the **secure net under a trapeze artist at the circus**. The trapezes are the transitory covenants; the net is the Eternal Covenant underneath. All the saints of the Old Testament who were saved were saved by grace because none could keep the covenants they agreed to, not even the Law of Moses, because:

Galatians 2:16

By the works of the Law, **none shall be justified before God.**

When they failed under a temporary covenant they did not fall from God's love, but they fell precisely **from the temporary covenant into the net of the Everlasting Covenant. God was always the same** and has **always saved in the same way**, by love and by grace. **He is a father before the Law, during the Law and eternally, yesterday, today and forever.** The Covenant of Grace is **eternal**.

**15.** Paul gives us examples of this with Abraham and David who were saved by grace, though they lived under other temporary covenants. David says:

Romans 4:7-8 Living Bible (TLB)

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed and to be envied," he said, "are those **whose sins are forgiven and put out of sight.**" <sup>8</sup> Yes, what joy there is for anyone **whose sins are no longer counted against him by the Lord."**

Paul says about Abraham:

Romans 4:9-13 Living Bible (TLB)

<sup>9</sup> Now then, the question: Is this blessing given only to those who have faith in Christ but also keep the Jewish laws, or is the blessing also given to those who do not keep the Jewish rules but only trust in Christ? Well, **what about Abraham?** We say that he received these blessings through his **faith**. Was it by **faith alone**, or because he also kept the Jewish rules? <sup>10</sup> For the answer to that question, answer this one: **When did God give this blessing to Abraham? It was before he became a Jew — before he went through the Jewish initiation ceremony of circumcision.** <sup>11</sup> It wasn't until later on, after God had promised to bless him because of his faith, that he was circumcised. The circumcision ceremony was a sign that Abraham already had **faith and that God had already accepted him and declared him just and good in his sight — before the ceremony took place.** So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who believe and are saved **without obeying Jewish laws**. We see, then, that **those who do not keep these rules are justified by God through faith.** <sup>12</sup> And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those Jews who have been circumcised. They can see from his example that **it is not this ceremony** that saves them, for **Abraham found favor with God by faith alone before** he was circumcised. <sup>13</sup> It is clear, then, that God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was **not because Abraham obeyed God's laws but because he trusted God to keep his promise.**

a. Grace is the mystery hidden since eternity but revealed by Jesus Christ and explained by Paul:

**Ephesians 3:8-11** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>8</sup> *To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the **unfathomable riches of Christ**, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light what is the administration of **the mystery which for ages has been hidden** in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup> so that the **manifold** (many colors) **wisdom** of God might now be **made known through the church** to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was in accordance with the **eternal purpose** which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord. ("made known through the church" Please, preachers, let us honor Paul's wisdom and effort to explain God's Grace, teaching the Eternal Covenant to our parishioners.)*

b. The Eternal Covenant was called New because it was **the last one we came to know**. It existed as a **mystery** since eternity and recently was revealed by the coming of Jesus Christ who brought us **that secret from Heaven** and Paul who explained it.

**2 Timothy 1:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *He saved us and called us to be His own people, not because of what we have done, but because of His own purpose and grace. He gave us this grace by means of Christ Jesus **before the beginning of time**, <sup>10</sup> **but now it has been revealed to us through the coming of our Savior, Christ Jesus**. He has ended the power of death and through the gospel has revealed immortal life.*

This is the only covenant that **surpasses, covers and rules over** all the other covenants. The other covenants only ruled for a limited period and during circumstantial needs and special situations, such as the Law of Moses or "the Old Covenant" which had a beginning and an end Hebrews 8:13, Galatians 3:19; 5:18, 2 Corinthians 3:6, and was given "because of transgressions" until the Messiah would come.

It saddens me that many of us have a **mixture of old pacts and New Covenant in our minds** and consequently do not enter the rest of God and don't let others who listen to us enter either. Of course, these beloved legalist brethren are saved by grace and shall enter the rest when they get to heaven, but it's a shame that because of their legalism they did not begin to enjoy and taste the haven of rest here on Earth! Hebrews 4:9-11.

**Hebrews 4:9-11** Good News Translation (GNT)

<sup>9</sup> *As it is, however, there still remains for God's people a rest like God's resting on the seventh day. <sup>10</sup> For those who receive that rest which God promised **will rest from their own work, just as God rested from His**. <sup>11</sup> Let us, then, do our best to receive that rest, so that no one of us will fail as they did because of their lack of faith.*

**Ephesians 1:13-14** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>13</sup> *In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> **who is given as a pledge** (down payment) **of our inheritance**, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

c. The Everlasting Covenant outperforms all the other covenants. Any "saint" we will find in heaven, from Adam to the last citizen of the world will be there because he

was saved by grace; “because by works of the Law **none** will be justified” Galatians 2:16. Not because of the Adamic, Mosaic, Davidic or any other covenant or any other religion. The New and Eternal Covenant governs from eternity to eternity and is a Covenant of Grace and only the Holy Trinity knows how many people of God’s creation will embrace. In other words, no Patriarch, Priest, King, religious person or pastor would become the bride of Christ unless it is by grace, because:

**Romans 3:10, 12**

*None is righteous, no, not one, ... no one does good, not even one.*

The Gospel is an “Eternal Gospel” Revelation 14:6 or Eternal Good News from all times and for all times!

**Romans 4:16** God’s Word Translation (GW)

*Therefore, the promise is based on faith **so that it can be a gift**. Consequently, the promise is guaranteed for **every descendant, not only for those who are descendants by obeying Moses’ teachings but also for those who are descendants by believing as Abraham did**. He is the father of all of us.*

d. The meaning of “**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever**” Hebrews 13:8 is the Christ of the Eternal Covenant. There is salvation in no other person, in no other way and no other segment of time in the whole history of humankind. There is no other name under heaven given to people, but there is all the time from eternity from eternity by which a person can be saved, but only by the grace of God and Jesus Christ, stated in the Everlasting Covenant. The eternal Gospel not only goes through the **dimension of time**, because it exists from eternity to eternity, but also goes beyond the **dimensions of space and death**. That’s why “*the Gospel was **preached also to the dead***” 1 Peter 4:6.

And may be, this is the reason why some churches, Corinthians and Mormons baptize people for the dead.

**1 Corinthians 15:29**

*Now, what about those people who are **baptized for the dead**? What do they hope to accomplish? If it is true, as some claim, that the dead are not raised to life, **why are those people being baptized for the dead**?*

Paul does not say it is wrong or it is right, he only mentions that it was practice. If that would have been wrong, surely he would have corrected it, but he didn’t.

The Eternal Covenant is also **valid for Hades**, (the place of the dead) it has not **time** nor **place** nor **dimension** limits. The Eternal Covenant is like God, omnipresent and has no limits.

**All** will be exposed **to the Everlasting Gospel in one-way or another**. That is why the old church in the liturgy of the Holy Communion from the centuries says:

"THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE **NEW AND ETERNAL** WHICH SHALL BE SHED FOR YOU AND FOR ALL MEN FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS."

I believe that our churches should teach about the Eternal Covenant and start using this affirmation in communion "**this is the cup of the New and Eternal Covenant.**" If the recipients of communion would be instructed on the meaning, dimension, coverage and nature of the Eternal Covenant, they would have a greater dimension of assurance and rest, being the "communion of the saints." Dead and alive. "We believe in the communion of saints, resurrection of the body and life eternal. According to Colossians 3:1-3 and 2 Corinthians 3:18, 3:18, 4:18 These texts and the following are very clear about our relationship with the invisible universe.

**Hebrews 12:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> *But you have come to **Mount Zion** and to **the city of the living God**, the **heavenly Jerusalem**, and to **myriads of angels**, <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and **church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven**, and **to God**, the Judge of all, and to **the spirits of the righteous made perfect**, <sup>24</sup> and **to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant**, and to the **sprinkled blood**, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.*

Have you meditated, visualized and experienced at least a little bit of this communion with all these to whom we have come by grace until we feel like if we are already there? **Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, the myriads of angels, the church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, God, the spirits of the righteous made perfect, Jesus and the sprinkled blood?** We can have a sense of eternity and heaven while down here. Remember: "we are seated in the heavenly places with Christ!" Ephesians 2:6

**16.** The Eternal Covenant of Grace exists since before the ages, but **was a mystery, a secret, until Christ, a Member of the Trinity, revealed it and Paul, who received this revelation in the third heaven, later explained it to us.** But the difference between us who have the mystery revealed and those who were under the Law, is that they, without knowing it, are also under the Eternal Covenant, because "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever,*" and offered himself for us before the world began, though we, didn't know it and, therefore, couldn't enjoy it. But we, to whom the mystery of grace has been revealed, should know it and enjoy it now unless we have a preacher who still mixes law with grace and then preaches it to us. The Everlasting Covenant governs from everlasting to everlasting and will never expire because God is "*the same yesterday, today and forever.*"

a. **Imagine a net, like the one under the trapeze artist at the circus, which begins in eternity and endures for eternity,** and hanging above it all the trapezes that symbolize the circumstantial covenants of history. None of the saints who lived on those trapezes would have been saved by their short-lived covenants, because none of them, from Adam, who had **only one** commandment and could not keep it, and even Moses couldn't keep his own Law. However, we will meet them all in the Kingdom of heaven, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Solomon,

etc., because when they fell from the trapeze of their circumstantial covenants they were rescued by the net of the redemptive **Eternal** Covenant of Grace below, because "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."

b. God's Eternal Covenant is from before time began to forever:

**Titus 1:2-3** God's Word Translation (GW)

<sup>2</sup> My message is based on the confidence of eternal life. God, who never lies, **promised this eternal life before the world began.** <sup>3</sup> God has revealed this in every era by spreading His word. I was entrusted with this word by the command of God our Savior.

Paul said: Brethren, this is the everlasting gospel, "the good eternal news of the unsearchable riches of Christ." This is what the Church should "make known now to the principalities and powers in the Heavenly places" and around the world. How much more, then, must we inform the believers in the Church so that they can make it known to the angelic beings and the world?

c. God wants everyone to understand the mystery that remained secret since ancient times.

**1 Corinthians 2:6-10** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> Yet **we do speak wisdom among those who are mature;** a wisdom, however, **not of this age** nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; <sup>7</sup> but we speak **God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;** <sup>8</sup> the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it **they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;** <sup>9</sup> but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." <sup>10</sup> For **to us God revealed them through the Spirit;** for the Spirit searches all things, even the **depths of God.**

This is solid food for the mature: all this wonderful good news is what we celebrate at the Lord's Supper, here and in heaven, for eternity and this is what we must make known to the celestial beings and the world. This is what the blood of Jesus represents, indicates and signals in the Holy Eucharist. He paid the ransom to Satan 1 Timothy 2:6, delivered us from Satan's slavery Colossians 1:13-14, and silenced all religions, even Moses', which demanded sacrifices and works to justify ourselves. Jesus shed His blood on the earth and deposited part of His blood in the holiest place in heaven Hebrews 9:12 as witness of the Eternal Covenant.

**Romans 5:1-2** Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since **we have been declared righteous by faith,** we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> We have also obtained **access through Him by faith into this grace** in which **we stand, and we rejoice** in the hope of the glory of God.

We must learn to live a little bit in the future.

d. The everlasting gospel has been the purpose of God from all eternity, and implemented by Jesus Christ. This is why we have assurance and access to God through Jesus Christ.

Here is a challenging mystery:

**1 Corinthians 2:6-8** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; <sup>7</sup> **but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which** God predestined **before the ages** to our glory; <sup>8</sup> the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for **if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

Paul says: If the religious authorities of Israel who crucified Jesus would have known this mysterious wisdom of grace, they would have not crucified the Lord of Glory. If the religious people who crucified Jesus, the High Priest, etc., would have believed in Christ and become disciples of Christ, and not have crucified Jesus, could there be salvation without the cross? How then? This requires a whole new lesson.

### C. THE LAW OF MOSES AND US CHRISTIANS

**1.** There are believers and even preachers who do not know or do not understand that we are not under the Law. Many use the Old Testament as if it would have as much authority as the New Testament; an example being the Old Testament curses if we don't tithe and the blessings if we do (see thesis "The Gospel of the gospel of Prosperity"). When I was young and taught tithing, I said what everybody said: "If you don't tithe you will be cursed and if you tithe you will be prospered, based on:

**Malachi 3:9-10** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> **You are under a curse** — your whole nation — because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw **open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.**

But we were informed by Paul in Galatians 3:13 "Christ **redeemed us from the curse of the Law**, having become a curse for us."

If this would not be so, how many believers would be cursed?

Malachi was a minister of the Old Covenant, we are ministers of a New Covenant.

**2 Corinthians 3:6** New International Version (NIV)

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant — not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

During the Law justification was by works but nobody made it.

**Romans 3:20**

Because **by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight;** for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

The Law gives power to sin and our sense of guilt <sup>1</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:56. It is not true that under each circumstantial covenant people were saved in a different way, under different rules. There is no salvation but by grace. Those rules were temporary and usually disciplinary, and **nobody could keep them** because of our sinful nature. But now, the mystery of the Eternal Covenant **has been revealed**, because the blood of the New and Eternal Covenant, the Covenant of Grace, is the only way to become members of the family of God. Paul contradicts the Law of Moses,

Leviticus 17:10-12 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

The God of Moses said:

*<sup>10</sup>And any man from the house of Israel, or from the aliens who sojourn among them, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from among his people. <sup>11</sup>For **the <sup>[a]</sup>life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the <sup>[b]</sup>life that makes atonement.** <sup>12</sup>Therefore I said to the sons of Israel, 'No person among you may eat blood, nor may any alien who sojourns among you eat blood.'*

Paul says:

**Hebrews 10:4-10**

*<sup>4</sup>For **it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.** <sup>5</sup>Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, But a body You have prepared for Me; <sup>6</sup>In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have taken no pleasure."<sup>7</sup> Then I said, "Behold, I have come (in the scroll of the book it is written) To do Your will, O God."<sup>8</sup> After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have not desired, nor have You taken pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the Law), <sup>9</sup>then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." (Psalm 40:8) **He takes away the first in order to establish the second.** <sup>10</sup>By this will we have been **sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.***

**Galatians 4:1-7** New Life Version (NLV)

<sup>1</sup> A young child who will get all the riches of his family is not different from a servant who is owned by the family. And yet the young child owns everything. <sup>2</sup> **While he is young, he is cared for by men his father trusts. These men tell the child what he can and cannot do.** The child cannot do what he wants to do until he has become a certain age. <sup>3</sup> We were as children also **held by the Law. We obeyed the Law in our religious worship.** <sup>4</sup> But at the right time, God sent His Son. A woman gave birth to Him under the Law. <sup>5</sup> This all happened **so He could buy with His blood and make free all those who were held by the Law.** Then we might become the sons of God. <sup>6</sup> **Because you are the sons of God, He has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts.** The Spirit cries, "Father!" <sup>7</sup> So now you are **no longer a servant** who is owned by someone. **You are a son.** If you are a son, then you will receive what God has promised through Christ.

Children under age are the participants and heirs of the parent's fortune, but while children, they must obey as slaves. Paul implies that those who need rules and laws are children. Therefore, I title these teachings as Solid Food for the mature believers. The rules of the transitory covenants could not give salvation in themselves Romans 3:20. There is a mixture of Law and Grace preached from our pulpits. The old mystery is still hidden from many Christians, even preachers; there seems to be a veil when we read the Scriptures:

**2 Corinthians 3:15-18** New International Version (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> Even to this day when Moses is read, **a veil covers their hearts**. <sup>16</sup> But whenever anyone **turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away**. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, who with **unveiled faces** contemplate the Lord's glory, **are being transformed** into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes **from the Lord, who is the Spirit**.

The "New" Covenant was new for us when it was discovered, but it was not new for God, but eternal. I repeat: **The New and Eternal Covenant reveals the true and constant nature of God.**

**2. We cannot be under two covenants at the same time**, because they were not made at the same time. The New and Eternal Covenant makes all the others obsolete and useless.

**Hebrews 8:13** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*"When He said, "A new covenant," He has **made the first obsolete**. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old **is ready to disappear**."*

**2 Corinthians 5:17** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

This is not to say that the chosen believers of the circumstantial covenants are not saved, because whether they are aware of it or not, if they are elected, they are under the Eternal Covenant. Abraham **was not yet** circumcised when he was justified by grace before the Law existed. David was circumcised when he was justified by grace under the Law. Justification by Grace alone **is** demonstrated in the Old Testament.

**Romans 4:1-5** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> *What then shall we say that **Abraham**, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."* <sup>4</sup> *Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. <sup>5</sup> But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.*

**Romans 4:6-8** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> *Just as **David** also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: <sup>7</sup> "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. <sup>8</sup> "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT."*

Legalists will be saved by grace, they are still in the milk, but children and heirs of eternal life, but they don't know it. They will only understand it in glory. But they

miss the experience and comfort of the down payment of our inheritance. Even Peter did not understand very well the Eternal Covenant as Paul taught it:

**2 Peter 3:14-16** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, <sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also **our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, <sup>16</sup> as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort**, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.*

Paul says:

**Romans 4:16** Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

*This is why the promise is by faith, so that it may be according to grace, **to guarantee it to all the descendants – not only to those who are of the Law but also to those who are of Abraham's faith**. He is the father of us all.*

**"to all the descendants – not only to those who are of the Law but also to those who are of Abraham's faith."**

According to this, whoever believes in God, with or without the Law, could be justified. Since there were no Bibles during the time of Abraham, there was no clear understanding of the theology of salvation, but **nonetheless he was justified by faith**. Without Bible and without Theology, that is, and yet justified by faith alone.

**3. But the mystery is not hidden anymore** because it has been revealed by Jesus and understood by Paul who explained it to us. The transitory agreements have all lost their usefulness including the Law of Moses. They are only good as our past history, **but because we have them all bound in the same Book, even though we call it the OLD Testament, we tend to give them the same authority as the NEW Testament! Many ministers preach things that are OLD!** If we quote the Old Testament, it should only be creation, Abraham, and the promises of the Messiah. Many of us do not enjoy the pure grace of Jesus Christ, but a contaminated grace, leavened with Moses and the other prophets. Thank God for Paul who exhorts us to pull back the veil from our minds and teaches us to trust in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for our eternal salvation and **enter God's rest**. But still:

Moses was coming down from the mountain with a shining face, so he believed that the people should not see his shining face and used a veil to cover it because "the glory of his face, would slowly fade away" 2 Corinthians 3:7, 11, 13. The veil hindered people so see his shining face. Moses did it perhaps because he was humble, and did not wanted to show it, or because he knew that the shining would not last too long, the people could worship him as a God at the beginning, and then, when the shining was gone, think he had no more power.

Paul interpreted that the Law would impress the people so much that they promise to obey every commandment, but very soon, the Law would lose its glory and power and then people would get confused when they could not keep it as they promised. Paul interpreted that many of us still today, when we read the Scripture, do not understand that the shining fade away from the old law and still see the letter through a veil not understanding that we are not guided anymore by the letter, but by the Holy Spirit: The veil does not let us see that the law is over. Moses did not use the veil for the rest of his life, the glory of the law faded away. The only way to get rid of that veil is to turn ourselves to the Spirit of Christ. So:

Romans 8:14 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

**14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**

Galatians 5:18 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

**18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.**

John 5:39-40 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

**39 [a] You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.**

Jesus did not say: "I will not let you as orphans, I will live you a book" **no**, He said: "I will come to you":

John 14:16-18, 26. New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Role of the Spirit: **16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another [a] Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**

John 16:7-8, 13-15 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

**7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the [a] Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore, I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.**

If we **do not** give room to the Holy Spirit, we will not be able to get freed from legalism or application of the letter, and if we **are led** by the Spirit, then we are not under the letter Galatians 5:18. How many people have been hurt by applying the letter! A boy, friend of us, 35 years old, suffered a lot since he was born and had multiple surgeries, but he needed more surgeries; he is tired, maybe he was told that he was not healed because he had not faith. He became angry with God and said: "all my

friends and relatives are praying for me but I have not any relief"; he abandoned the Church, very angry with God, got into drinking, etc. his mother is very sad.

There are many people that read the many promises of the Bible that God answers prayer, etc. and when it does not happen, they lose their faith and even some preachers worsen the situation when they say: "you don't get healed because you have not faith", so the poor person, on top of not get healed, gets condemned! Those of us who have faith in God, who is Spirit and worshiped and serve in the Spirit, we understand the sovereignty of God; He is a dynamic person not a static Book, but those whose god is the letter, do not understand why the letter does not work most of the times. Now **legalism** is to be law oriented (letter-oriented)

We had supplanted Jesus with the Scriptures. We need to continually remember that God is not letter, but Spirit, a living and dynamic person that has power and will, he can say yes today and no tomorrow; He can say yes to one person and no to other person on the same matter. **He is a person, not a book. It is the Book what say these things.** Job understood this. He said

*"Though He slay me, I will hope in Him."* Job 13:15, and Habakkuk 3:17-18 *" Though the fig tree **should not blossom** And there be **no [a]fruit on the vines**, Though the **yield of the olive should fail** And the fields **produce no food**, Though the flock should **be cut off from the fold** And there be **no cattle in the stalls**, <sup>18</sup> **Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.***

Paul says:

2 Corinthians 3:6 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> *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.*

In the past, how many people were killed: excommunicate because of divorce, women could not be neither preachers nor pastors, my two elder siblings were disciplined for playing soccer on Sunday and left the church (after few years they returned and became ministers. Women were disciplined for using lipstick and any make up. I've being in denominational conferences since my youth, where going to the movies or having a TV set was condemned. Also, we discussed and condemned women dyeing their hair, using pants, short sleeves, etc. We had a Bible verse for each thing. Our challenge of today is Gay people marriage, transgender, etc. we have Bible verses for them too. We also had Bible verses for apartheid, and believing that Black people should be our slaves Genesis 9:20-25, and we have also Bible verses for getting sick and even dying prematurely for taking communion unworlly: 1 Corinthians 11:27-30

1 Corinthians 11:27-30 Good News Translation (GNT)

<sup>27</sup> *It follows that if one of you eats the Lord's bread or drinks from his cup in a way that dishonors him, you are guilty of sin against the Lord's body and blood. <sup>28</sup> So then, you should each examine yourself first, and then eat the bread and drink from the cup. <sup>29</sup> For if you do not recognize the meaning of the Lord's body when you eat the bread and drink from the cup, you bring judgment on yourself as you eat and drink. <sup>30</sup> **That is why many of you are***

**sick and weak, and several have died.** <sup>31</sup> *If we would examine ourselves first, **we would not come under God's judgment.*** <sup>32</sup> *But we are judged and punished by the Lord, so that **we shall not be condemned together with the world.***

For centuries, the Catholic Church excommunicated the divorced people that remarried. One of the reformers found out grace in the Scriptures and decided that the divorced people that remarried, should be forgiven and accepted as normal members of the church without any exclusion, to be in tune with the forgiveness of gospel of grace. Now Catholics are revising this issue. How many people were killed by the application of the letter! Which are the unpardonable sins? It is interesting how many assassins get converted in Jail and we accept their salvation, though the letter of the civil law had decided to give them capital punishment...! In confession, we had counsel a person that confessed murder, and I think we were right, to report himself to the police, but at the same time, because we believe in the Grace of God, we introduce them into the kingdom through forgiveness, like the thief of the cross. Now Paul was very serious about holiness, to the point that he gave a believer to Satan to be killed by him, **BUT** at the same time, Paul believed that this great sinner did not lose his salvation!

1 Corinthians 5:1-5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Immorality Rebuked **5** *It is reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that **someone has his father's wife.*** <sup>2</sup> *[a]You have become [b]arrogant and [c]have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.* <sup>3</sup> *For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present.* <sup>4</sup> *In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and [d]I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, <sup>5</sup> I have decided to **deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord [e]Jesus.***

This boy repented from his sin and was forgiven by the church and Paul: 2 Corinthians 2:4-11.

We should never forget Galatians 5:22-25 <sup>22</sup> *But the **fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*** <sup>23</sup> ***gentleness, self-control;*** *against such things there is no law.* <sup>24</sup> *Now those who [a]belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.* <sup>25</sup> ***If we live by the Spirit, let us also [b]walk by the Spirit.***

These are some illustrations for our great theme on Grace, but let us continue with our main point.

2 Corinthians 3:7-18 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>7</sup> *But if the (A)ministry of death, (B)in letters engraved on stones, came [a]with glory, (C)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.*** <sup>8</sup> *how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory?* <sup>9</sup> *For if (D)the ministry of condemnation has glory, **much more does the (E)ministry of righteousness abound in glory.*** <sup>10</sup> *For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it.* <sup>11</sup> *For if **that which fades away was [b]with glory,** much more that which remains is in glory.*

<sup>12</sup>(E)Therefore having such a hope, <sup>(G)</sup>we use great boldness in our speech, <sup>13</sup> and are not like Moses, <sup>(H)</sup>who used to put a veil over his face **so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away.** <sup>14</sup> But their minds were <sup>(I)</sup>hardened; for until this very day at the <sup>(J)</sup>reading of <sup>(K)</sup>the old covenant the same veil <sup>(L)</sup>remains unlifted, **because it is removed in Christ.** <sup>15</sup> But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; <sup>16</sup>(L)but **whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.** <sup>17</sup> Now **the Lord is the Spirit,** and where <sup>(M)</sup>the Spirit of the Lord is, <sup>(N)</sup>there is liberty. <sup>18</sup> But **we all, with unveiled face, <sup>(O)</sup>beholding as in a mirror the <sup>(P)</sup>glory of the Lord, are being <sup>(Q)</sup>transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from <sup>(R)</sup>the Lord, the Spirit.**

Therefore Jesus said:

**Galatians 5:18** Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

*But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. It is Christ and nothing else.*

Let us **turn to the dynamic living Christ** and not become enslaved by a **static letter**. The letter does not have emotions or feelings, if you talk to the law, it does not answer, if you try to explain why you fail, the letter does not understand, only says “thou shall be kill”, stone her! Jesus is a person, understands and forgives because He has feelings so, let us turn to the Lord who is a living, dynamic Spirit. Because He is a person with feelings, He understands us. He fills us and guides us from within.

Hebrews 4:15 Good News Translation (GNT)

<sup>15</sup> Our High Priest **is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin.** He did not sin because he did not have the sinful nature of Adam-

When we turn to Jesus Christ, the veil over our mind will be removed and we can see Christ. He gives us eternal assurance of salvation. The Letter is a catalogue of all the blessings we have in the living Christ. The Scriptures are like the menu of the restaurant; we do not eat the menu, but the dish offered there. The New Testament is the menu, Christ is the dish.

**John 5:39-40** Good News Translation (GNT)

<sup>39</sup> You study the Scriptures, because you think that in them you will find eternal life. And these very Scriptures speak about me! <sup>40</sup> Yet **you are not willing to come to me** in order to have life.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

**2 Corinthians 3:4-6** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>4</sup>Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. <sup>5</sup>Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, <sup>6</sup> 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.**

b. At the Church in Colossae there were some who believed that there was still room for legalistic rules under grace. Paul admonishes them:

**Colossians 2:8-10** Good News Translation (GNT)

<sup>8</sup> See to it, then, that no one **enslaves you** by means of the worthless deceit of human wisdom, which comes from the **teachings handed down by human beings** and from the **ruling spirits of the universe**, and not from Christ. <sup>9</sup> For the full content of divine nature lives in Christ, in His humanity, <sup>10</sup> and **you have been given full life in union with Him. He is supreme over every spiritual ruler and authority.**

c. Who are the "ruling spirits of the universe?" Certainly, evil spirits! Who is "supreme over every spiritual ruler and authority?" Surely Christ! Who made the Law?

**Colossians 2:11-23** Good News Translation (GNT)

<sup>11</sup> In union with Christ you were circumcised, not with the circumcision that is made by human beings, but with the circumcision made by Christ, which consists of being freed from the power of this sinful self. <sup>12</sup> For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ through your faith in the active power of God, who raised Him from death. <sup>13</sup> You were at one time spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were Gentiles without the Law. But **God has** now brought you to life with Christ. God forgave us **all our sins**; <sup>14</sup> He **canceled the unfavorable record of our debts with its binding rules and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross**. <sup>15</sup> And on that cross **Christ freed himself from the power of the spiritual rulers and authorities; He made a public spectacle of them by leading them as captives in his victory procession**. <sup>16</sup> So **let no one make rules about what you eat or drink or about holy days or the New Moon Festival or the Sabbath**. <sup>17</sup> All such things are only a shadow of things in the future; the reality is Christ. <sup>18</sup> **Do not allow yourselves to be condemned by anyone** who claims to be superior because of special visions and who insists on false humility and the worship of angels. For no reason at all, such people are all puffed up by their human way of thinking <sup>19</sup> and have stopped holding on to Christ, who is the head of the body. Under Christ's control the whole body is nourished and held together by its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God wants it to grow. <sup>20</sup> You have died with Christ and are set **free from the ruling spirits of the universe**. Why, then, do you live as though you belonged to this world? **Why do you obey such rules as** <sup>21</sup> **"Don't handle this," "Don't taste that," "Don't touch the other"?** <sup>22</sup> **All these refer to things which become useless once they are used; they are only human rules and teachings.** <sup>23</sup> Of course such rules **appear to be based on wisdom** in their forced worship of angels, and false humility, and severe treatment of the body; but **they have no real value** in controlling physical passions.

Paul says: vs 14 **"He canceled the unfavorable record of our debts with its binding rules and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross."**

Evidently what Jesus canceled for us, the "record of our debts with its binding rules," **is our disobediences to the Law.**

Also: vs 15 **"Christ freed himself from the power of the spiritual rulers and authorities; He made a public spectacle of them by leading them as captives in His victory procession."**

d. These spiritual rulers and authorities are evil spirits Ephesians 6:12. Who made the law?

Compare this with Galatians 4:3-5 and see that the "**elemental things of the world**" is also the Law.

**Colossians 2:20**

*You have died with Christ and are set **free from the ruling spirits of the universe.***

**Galatians 4:3-5** New International Version (NIV)

*<sup>3</sup> So also, when we were underage, we were in **slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world.** <sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, <sup>5</sup> **to redeem those under the Law,** that we might receive adoption to **sonship.***

These Scriptures connect the application of the Law with the authorities and powers of the world, **which are Satanic.** This should make the dreadful passage of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 with its approximately 88 horrible curses, more understandable. Please read it all if you can. This scripture looks as it was written more by a satanic psychopath than a divine author. And what about the killings from the first day of the inauguration of the Law and the killings of those who fail in keeping the Law?

## **D. GOD USES SATAN TO DISCIPLINE HIS PEOPLE**

**1. It is evident that God does not do the dirty jobs of punishing people. To prove it, please read:**

a. God used Satan to discipline **King Saul:**

**1 Samuel 16:14-16**

*<sup>14</sup> Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and **an evil spirit from the LORD** terrorized him. <sup>15</sup> Saul's servants then said to him, "Behold now, an **evil spirit from God** is terrorizing you. <sup>16</sup> Let our lord now command your servants who are before you. Let them seek a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall come about when the **evil spirit from God** is on you, that he shall play the harp with his hand, and you will be well."*

b. God used Satan to discipline **Abimelech:**

**Judges 9:23**

*Then **God sent an evil spirit** between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech.*

c. God used Satan to discipline Paul:

**2 Corinthians 12:7-9**

*<sup>7</sup> Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a **messenger of Satan** to torment me — to keep me from exalting myself! <sup>8</sup> Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. <sup>9</sup> And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is*

perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

d. God used Satan to discipline the immoral man at Corinth Church:

**1 Corinthians 5:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. <sup>2</sup> You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst. <sup>3</sup> For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. <sup>4</sup> In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, <sup>5</sup> I have decided to **deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.**

These Scriptures, among others, teaches two very important lessons (1) Paul uses Satan to discipline that immoral brother. (2) When we do wrong, we will be punished on this earth, but will not lose our eternal salvation, 1 Corinthians 5:5.

e. God used Satan even to test His Son Jesus!

**Matthew 4:1**

Then Jesus was **led by the Spirit** into the wilderness **to be tempted by the devil.**

f. God used Satan to discipline Job:

**Job 1:6-12**

<sup>6</sup> Now there was a day when **the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.** <sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." <sup>8</sup> **The LORD said to Satan,** "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." <sup>9</sup> Then **Satan answered** the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? <sup>10</sup> Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. <sup>11</sup> But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face." <sup>12</sup> Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, **all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.**" So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD, etc.

**Job 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and **Satan also came among them** to present himself before the LORD. <sup>2</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." <sup>3</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause." <sup>4</sup> Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. <sup>5</sup> "However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face." <sup>6</sup> So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, **he is in your power,** only spare his life." <sup>7</sup> Then

*Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.*

g. Compare these next two Scriptures. It is the same story registered twice in the Bible but gives us a great revelation: Satan is the “anger of the Lord”

**2 Samuel 24:1-2**

*<sup>1</sup> Now again the **anger of the LORD** burned against Israel, and it incited David against them to say, “Go, number Israel and Judah.”*

*<sup>2</sup> The king said to Joab the commander of the army who was with him, “Go about now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and register the people, that I may know the number of the people.”*

**1 Chronicles 21:1-2** *<sup>1</sup> Then **Satan** stood up against Israel. And moved David to number Israel. <sup>2</sup> So David said to Joab and to the princes of the people, “Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan, and bring me word that I may know their number.” <sup>3</sup> Joab said, “**May the LORD add to His people a hundred times as many as they are! But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord’s servants? Why does my lord seek this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt to Israel?**”*

God uses Satan to punish or discipline his people. Evidently it is God who decides the punishment, but frees Satan to do it. In the case of Job we see that God set the limits of the punishment, but those limits were still very harmful.

h. As you can see in the former Scripture, “*the anger of the Lord*” is “*Satan*”. Remember also the case of Job where it was Satan who dealt with Job, but with God’s authorization. It seems that God doesn’t do the discipline or punishment Himself. He gives that dirty job to Satan, who loves to do it.

i. Satan is the accuser of the believers.

**Revelation 12:10**

*Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.**”*

and is always asking for those jobs of punishing them:

j. Satan demanded permission to sift Peter as wheat...

**Luke 22:31**

*Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat.*

Now, if all these scriptures, which are many, are true, then God authorized Satan to punish his people with the Law, because the purpose of the Law was to punish Israel for their transgressions:

**Galatians 3:19** New American Standard Bible

*Why the Law then? **It was added because of transgressions**, having been ordained **through angels** by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.*

**2. The ceremony of the inauguration of the Law** of Moses, apparently given by God, should have been something very serious and religious, and I expected it to be have a very spiritual liturgy of processions with banners, choir and orchestra, songs, prayers, a spiritual message and the blessing. **But** it was not so instead **it was the most confused and evil celebration** you could expect:

a. Down the mountain, Satan prepared a **satanic celebration**, making the people to dance, drink and worship a demonic Golden Calf.

**Exodus 32:7-10** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, **have corrupted themselves.** <sup>8</sup> They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have **worshiped it and have sacrificed to it and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!'**" <sup>9</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. <sup>10</sup> Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation."*

b. When Moses saw what was going on, he took the tablets of the Law, written by God's hands, and broke it into pieces.

**Exodus 32:19-20** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*<sup>19</sup> It came about, as soon as Moses came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing; and Moses' anger burned, and **he threw the tablets from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain.** <sup>20</sup> He took the calf, which they had made and **burned it with fire, and ground it to powder, and scattered it over the surface of the water and made the sons of Israel drink it.***

This is the least expected thing to happened in the inauguration of de Law, to be shattered into pieces under anger.

c. To continue the "celebration" of the inauguration of the Law, people started to kill each other, by commanded by God (¿?)

**Exodus 32:25-28** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*<sup>25</sup> Now when Moses saw that the people were **out of control** — for **Aaron had let them get out of control** to be a derision among their enemies — <sup>26</sup> then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered together to him. <sup>27</sup> He said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Every man of you put his sword upon his thigh, and go back and forth from gate to gate in the camp, and kill every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor.'" <sup>28</sup> So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about three thousand men of the people fell that day.*

d. What a celebration! What a liturgy! The day of the inauguration of the Law of Moses! All the process of the giving of the Law was dreadful. Paul recounts it this way:

**Hebrews 12:18-21** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

***18 For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, 19 and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. 20 For they could not bear the command, "IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED." 21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling."***

The liturgy of the first day of the Law was satanic. Evidently, the Law was given to Israel as a punishment or discipline for their disobedience Galatians 3:19, And the Doctor in punishment, as usual, was his rebellious son Satan, to punish them as he did with Job. Job 1:6.

**3.** According to this Scripture Galatians 3:19, the Law was "**Ordained through angels,**" that is, God ordained the angels to punish Israel for their transgressions, but which angels? Who is the god of this world and who are his angels.

Ephesians 6:12 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*12 For our (A)struggle is not against (a)(B)flesh and blood, but (C)against the rulers, against the powers, against the (D)world forces of this (E)darkness, against the (E)spiritual forces of wickedness in (C)the heavenly places.*

It was an angel who talked with Moses Acts 7:38. It was an angel who appeared to Moses on the burning thorn bush Acts 7:35, Exodus 3:2. God always used Satan for those disciplines, just like the case of Job who was tortured by Satan with God's permission Job 1:6-12, 2.1-7, Paul buffeted by an angel of Satan 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 also with God's permission to discipline him for his tendency to pride, and God released Peter to Satan Luke 22:31 who caused him to deny Jesus. Even Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the **devil**. Do not forget who is the "prince of this world" Ephesians 2:2, or god of this world 2 Corinthians 4:4. It is Satan. It is very interesting that all those punished by God through Satan, did not lose their salvation or ministry. God almost killed them all! This seems more satanic than divine! How come the giving of the Law was so confusing?

**James 3:17-18**

*17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

\*\*\*\*\*

b. Look how different the inauguration of Grace was, Lets go back to Hebrews 12:18-21 and continue to vs. 22-24:

## Inauguration of the Law:

Hebrews 12:18-21 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>18</sup> <sup>Ⓜ</sup>For you have not come to <sup>Ⓜ</sup>a mountain that can be touched and to a **blazing fire**, and to **darkness and gloom and whirlwind**, <sup>19</sup> and to the <sup>Ⓜ</sup>blast of a trumpet and the <sup>Ⓜ</sup>sound of words which sound was such that those who heard <sup>Ⓜ</sup>begged that no further word be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> For they could not bear the command, <sup>Ⓜ</sup>IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED. <sup>21</sup> And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, <sup>Ⓜ</sup>I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling.

## Inauguration of Grace:

Hebrews 12:22-24 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>22</sup> But you have come to **Mount Zion** and to the **city of the living God**, the **heavenly Jerusalem**, and to **myriads of angels**, <sup>23</sup> to the **general assembly and church of the firstborn** who are enrolled in heaven, and **to God**, the Judge of all, and **to the spirits of the righteous made perfect**, <sup>24</sup> and to **Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant**, and to the **sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.**

Evidently, the liturgy of the inauguration of Grace was heavenly. Have we already experienced something of all these spiritual blessings? Have you already had a time of silence to visualize and contemplate the heavenly **Mount Zion**? The **city of the living God**? The **heavenly Jerusalem**? The **myriads of angels**? The **general assembly and church of the firstborn**? **God**? The **spirits of the righteous made perfect**? **Jesus, the mediator of a New Covenant**? And the **sprinkled blood** of Jesus? Grace liturgy is the contemplation of eternity...

What a contrast between these two inaugurations. No wonder the Law was a punishment. It started with a killing of thousands of people and the center of the liturgy was to break the tablets of the Law into pieces. (See *the curses of the Law in Deuteronomy 28:16-68* and **compare it with John 3:16!**)

## 4. Paul tells us that **Christ alone is more than enough to save us. We are complete in Him.**

Colossians 2:9-10

<sup>9</sup> For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and **in Him you have been made complete**, and He is the head over all rule and authority.

See the welcoming that Paul gives in the name of Jesus to the Church in Ephesus? Nothing compared with the **horrendous inauguration** of the Law of Moses.

Ephesians 1:2-13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>2</sup> **Grace to you and peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ**, <sup>4</sup> just as He **chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be **holy and blameless** before Him. **In love** <sup>5</sup> **He predestined us to adoption as sons** through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the **kind intention of His will**, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of **the glory of His grace**, which He **freely bestowed on us** in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have **redemption through His blood**, the **forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the **riches of His grace** <sup>8</sup> which He **lavished on us**. In all **wisdom and insight** <sup>9</sup> He **made known to us the mystery of His will**,

according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him <sup>10</sup> with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him <sup>11</sup> also **we have obtained an inheritance**, having been **predestined according to His purpose** who works all things after the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ **would be to the praise of His glory**. <sup>13</sup> In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — **having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise**.

**5.** At Galatia, there were some Jewish believers who thought there was room for the Law under Grace and started to mix Law with Grace. Paul became *furiosus*:

**Galatians 3:1-14** Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

<sup>1</sup> You **foolish** Galatians! Who has **hypnotized** you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was **vividly portrayed as crucified**? <sup>2</sup> I only want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit **by the works of the Law or by hearing with faith**? <sup>3</sup> Are you so **foolish**? After **beginning with the Spirit, are you now going to be made complete by the flesh**? <sup>4</sup> Did you suffer so much for nothing — if in fact it was for nothing? <sup>5</sup> So then, **does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the Law or by hearing with faith**? <sup>6</sup> (Paul would say to many preachers of today OH, FULISH PREACHERS!) Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness, <sup>7</sup> then understand that those who have faith are Abraham's sons. <sup>8</sup> Now the Scripture saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and told the good news ahead of time to Abraham, saying, All the nations will be blessed through you. <sup>9</sup> So **those who have faith are blessed with Abraham, who had faith**. <sup>10</sup> For **all who rely on the works of the Law are under a curse**, because it is written: Everyone who does not continue doing everything written in the book of the Law is cursed. <sup>11</sup> Now **it is clear that no one is justified before God by the Law**, because the righteous **will live by faith**. <sup>12</sup> But **the Law is not based on faith**; instead, the one who does these things will live by them. <sup>13</sup> Christ has **redeemed us from the curse of the Law** by becoming a curse for us, because it is written: Everyone who is hung on a tree is cursed. <sup>14</sup> The purpose was that the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles by Christ Jesus, so that we could **receive the promised Spirit through faith**.

**Galatians 5:4** Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

You who are **trying to be justified by the law are alienated from Christ; you have fallen from grace**.

This is a horrible statement. The Law is very dangerous to Christians! I hope that God's grace will over abound his grace over this sin also.

**Colossians 2:20:23** New Living Translation (NLT)

<sup>20</sup> You have died with Christ and are set free from the **ruling spirits of the universe**. Why, then, do you live as though you belonged to this world? **Why do you obey such rules as** <sup>21</sup> **"Don't handle this," "Don't taste that," "Don't touch the other"**? <sup>22</sup> **All these refer to things which become useless once they are used; they are only human rules and teachings**. <sup>23</sup> Of course such rules **appear to be based on wisdom** in their forced worship of angels, and false humility, and severe treatment of the body; but **they have no real value** in controlling physical passions.

**6.** Have you already entered the spiritual **sabbath rest that grace has prepared for you?**

**Hebrews 4:9-11** Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, a Sabbath rest remains for God's people. <sup>10</sup> For the person who has entered His rest **has rested from his own works, just as God did from His**. <sup>11</sup> Let us then make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience.

I want to dig into these truths so that we not only know that we are saved, but also enjoy it, and even boast in the Lord, and share it with all those we love, specially those who are still lost. We were created to **worship God and enjoy Him forever.**

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31** Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

<sup>26</sup> Brothers, consider your calling: Not many are wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> **God has chosen** what is insignificant and despised in the world — what is viewed as nothing — to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, <sup>29</sup> so that **no one can boast in His presence.** <sup>30</sup> But it is from Him that **you are in Christ Jesus, who became God-given wisdom for us — our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption,** <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written: The one who boasts **must boast in the Lord.**

## CONCLUSION

Let us enter God's rest from **our** works and begin to **totally trust in Jesus who made the work for us.** Let us focus **inside** of ourselves where **He is** and **follow his instinct, the guidance** of the Spirit in us Romans 7:6, 8:14. The letter of the Bible is a good guide, but for a need at a moment, you would need to know all the Bible by heart and also have a concordance at hand to find the proper verse to know what to do. But Paul, author of an important part of the Holy Scriptures teaches us differently.

**Romans 7:6**

But now we **have been released from the Law**, having died to that by which we were bound, **so that we serve in newness of the Spirit** and **not in oldness of the letter.**

**Romans 8:14**

For all **who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**

Also looking for the **"good works that He prepared beforehand for us to walk in them."**

**Ephesians 2:10**

For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which **God prepared beforehand** so that **we would walk in them.**

These will be **works of grace** that come with our salvation and will be rewarded in heaven.

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> For no man can lay a **foundation** other than the one which is laid, which **is Jesus Christ.** <sup>12</sup> Now if **any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,** <sup>13</sup> each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If any man's work which he has built on it remains, **he will receive a reward.** <sup>15</sup> If any man's work is burned up, **he will suffer loss;** but **he himself will be saved,** yet so as through fire.

We will find these works along our way, and our conscience will tell us what to do, because Christ lives there, in our conscience. Let us live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit by obeying the Spirit of Christ who dwells in our conscience. Our conscience is our spiritual inner heart. God will bring unto us the good works that the love of God prepared for us to do. We will know they are from God because we will have the **willingness** to do them and enjoy doing them, not to get saved but because **we are saved** Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 2:13. This will cause joy in us and pleasure in God. We are under the New and Eternal Covenant or Promise of the Father, which is the Holy Spirit!

**Philippians 2:13**

For **it is God** who is at work in you, both **to will** and **to work** for His good pleasure.

Luke 24:49 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

***49 And behold, I am sending forth the **promise of My Father upon you**; but you are to **stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.*****

Acts 1:4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

***4 [a] Gathering them together, He commanded them **not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for [b] what the Father had promised,***** "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me;

Acts 2:38-39 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

***38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.***** ***39 For the **promise is for you and your children** and **for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.*****

**Romans 8:28-39** New American Standard Bible (NASB)

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***28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written: FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Amen.