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August 3 & 4, 2019

Valley Church
Week 23 – The Promise of the New

Introduction:

The Old Covenant system was conditional, contingent upon the behavioral performance of God's people...and it wasn't working!

God Promises the New and Better:

Ezekiel 36:24-27
Jeremiah 31:31-34

The new "heart" = new passions and priorities that God has given us

The new "spirit" = new nature that God gives us, replacing our old nature

Romans 6:11
2 Corinthians 5:17
1 Corinthians 6:17
Luke 22:20

Deuteronomy 29:25-26 – Moses predicts Israel's failure to keep the Law
Deuteronomy 30:4-6 – Moses predicts God's future restoration of His people

Acts 10:44-46
Ephesians 2:13-14

What the New Covenant Means for Me...

1. I am no longer _____ for God (1 Cor. 6:17)

Desperate = "Strongly lacking in something critical for success or survival. In danger because of despair or hopelessness."

2. I do not need _____ of God (2 Pet. 1:3; Col. 2:10)
3. My heart is not _____ and my hands are no longer _____

This is the work of Christ's New Covenant on my behalf! And this is the greatest possible motivation for living a holy life!

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Which do you believe is the greater motivation for living a godly life and why do you say this is the case?
 - a. I am dirty and distant, and I want God to be pleased with me by bringing Him glory.
 - b. I am clean and close, and therefore I am now free to live a life that brings God glory.

Ponderings:

2. Imagine what life was like when the Jews had finally hit rock bottom: living in exile and under foreign occupation, their temple in ruins, their Scriptures largely unknown by the common people, their economy in shambles, their lives only a vague shell of what God had intended for them.
 - Why was the promise of a New Covenant so critical?
 - Why do you think the average Jew had such difficulty believing it?
 - Why do you think God waited so many centuries to send Jesus?
3. When you received Christ, you became a beneficiary of the New Covenant. God gave you a new **heart** (new passions and desires) and a new human **spirit** (a new inner nature at the core). He also gave you His **Holy Spirit**. How are these things distinct and how do they work together in our lives as believers today?
4. Why is the fact that you are no longer “desperate for God” such an impactful reality for daily living? Discuss...
5. Why is the fact that you do not need “more of God” so important for your growth as a believer? Discuss...
6. Why is the fact that you are no longer “dirty and distant” from God so powerful in fueling a life that brings glory to Him? Discuss...

Promptings:

7. Do you know Christians who are struggling with the “dirty rotten sinner” syndrome? Perhaps they claim to believe that God unconditionally loves them, but they are still living under a cloud of a lack of assurance?

How can you disciple people like this? Are you willing to be on the lookout for fellow believers who have yet to understand their true riches in Christ so that they can begin to live more fully from that new identity? Explain...