

Message

The Enduring Covenant



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The Enduring Covenant

■ Deuteronomy 6:1-9

- ❖ Repetition and routine are powerful teachers. Repetition and routine with variation are keys in creating success in general life and in spiritual manners.
- ❖ Many psychologist has understood repetition in learning, as the association of a single or multiple stimuli and a given response.
- ❖ One of the purposes of the instructions from Deuteronomy 6, is to teach us and our children that God the Father is the ultimate authority, not the church or the administrations.



The Enduring Covenant

■ Deuteronomy 29:1-18; 25-29

❖ What was the covenant?

➤ "That God would be their God, and they would be God's people" No idols. God would be first in their lives.

❖ A covenant (Hebrew *berith*, Greek *diatheke*) is a legal agreement between two or more parties. The word, "covenant(s)," occurs 284 times in the Old Testament (as found in the New American Standard Bible). "Covenant(s)" occurs 37 times in the New Testament, which gives a total of 321 occurrences.

❖ Using covenants is how God communicates to us, redeems us, and guarantees us eternal life in Jesus.



The Enduring Covenant

■ Psalm 111:5-10

- *"..food to those who fear Him..."* (John 4:34 - Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.)
- *"ordained" = "commanded / "forever" = "everlasting"*
- The important point is that God's commandments are connected to the covenant that will last forever.



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■ Revelation 12:9-12

- “...they overcame him by **blood of Christ** and the **word of their testimony...**”
- **Word** – an account is given by word of mouth / reckoning of words to actions
- **Testimony** – evidence given / record, report or witness.



The Enduring Covenant

■ **Concept of the Christian Covenant / Testament**

“There is a pattern to the covenants found in the Bible. Basically, it is as follows. The initiating party describes himself and what he has done, then there is a list of obligations between the two (or more) parties. What follows is the section dealing with rewards and punishments that govern the keeping and breaking of the covenant. The Ten Commandments fit this pattern and are a covenant document.” – Matt Slick (Radio Show Host)

- **The initiating party describes himself and what he has done. (Exodus 20:2)**
- **Then there is a list of obligations between the two (or more) parties. (Exodus 20:3-17)**
- **Then there is the section dealing with rewards and punishments that govern the keeping and breaking of the covenant. (Exodus 20:7, 12; Deuteronomy 28)**

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■ Covenants: Conditional or Non-Conditional

- ❖ A conditional covenant might depend on the faithfulness of one more parties, and the covenant is invalidated should one or both break the conditions. An example of this would be the Adamic Covenant where God promised Adam eternal life if Adam remained obedient to God's Word.
- ❖ An unconditional covenant is one that is not dependent on the faithfulness of the parties but remains valid. The Noahic Covenant is unconditional in that it is God's promise to never destroy the earth again by water. There is no condition for the covenant.



The Enduring Covenant

- **Common Theme: Covenants in the Bible between God and man are originated by God and are an act of His grace**
 - **The Adamic Covenant was made between God and Adam where Adam would have everlasting life based on obedience to God (Genesis 1:28-30, 2:15-17).**
 - **The sign was the Tree of Life (Genesis 2:9).**



The Enduring Covenant

- **Common Theme: Covenants in the Bible between God and man are originated by God and are an act of His grace**
 - The Noahic Covenant was between God and Noah and was the promise by God to never destroy the earth again by a flood (**Genesis 9:1-11**).
 - The sign of the covenant is “my bow in the cloud” (**Genesis 9:13**).



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- **Common Theme: Covenants in the Bible between God and man are originated by God and are an act of His grace**
 - The Mosaic Covenant was between God and the Israelites where they would be a “kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exodus 19:1-8).
 - The sign of the covenant was the tablets of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 24:12).



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- **Common Theme: Covenants in the Bible between God and man are originated by God and are an act of His grace**
 - Abrahamic
 - Land of Canaan
 - Davidic



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■ Deuteronomy 8:2; 29:4

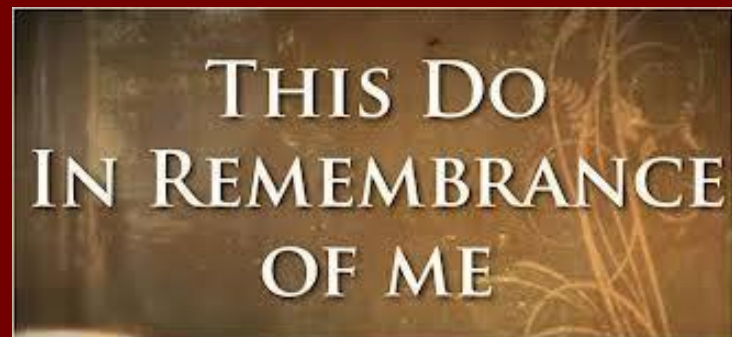
- Moses clearly recognized and stated that God had not given the Israelites, “a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear.”

■ Hebrews 8:6-10

- The Pharisees saw the Law of God as an external authority over their lives, as well as an object to use to rule over others with added addendums (the oral law, in fact the oral law took precedent over the written law).
- Jesus wanted the Law of God to be an internal authority of governance, in our lives.

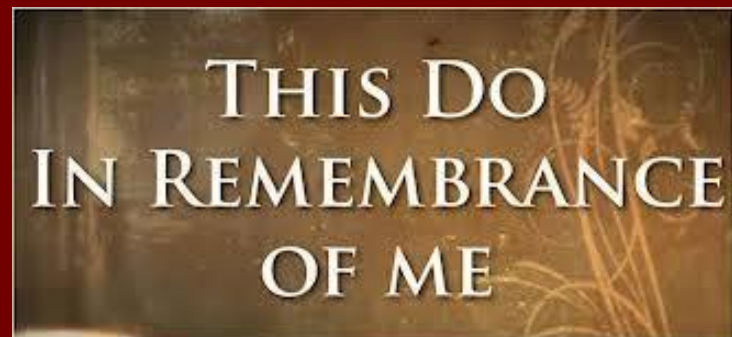
The Enduring Covenant

- **The New Covenant is between Christ and His church and consists of obtaining eternal salvation.**
- **Colossians 2:9-15; Romans 2:17-29**
 - Baptism is a covenant sign.
- **I Corinthians 11:23-26**
 - Continual participation required.



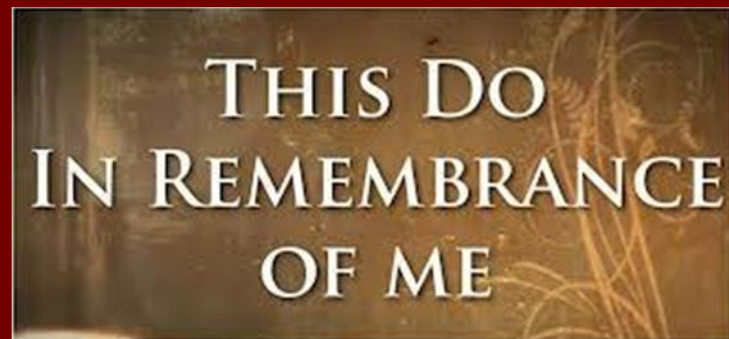
The Enduring Covenant

- **The New Covenant is between Christ and His church and consists of obtaining eternal salvation.**
- **Psalm 119:9-24; 105**
 - Meditation on the Precepts of God.
- **Hebrews 10:16-18; Jeremiah 31:27-33**
 - A Covenant in the Heart of Mankind.



The Enduring Covenant

- **A covenant can be seen as a contract between God and a person.**
 - **God sets the terms and makes the offer, we then decide to accept or reject His offer. When we accept the offer we 'make' the covenant. This is usually done by some outward ordinance, such as baptism and the taking the sacraments. This is our 'signing the check,' promising through action to keep our part of the bargain.**



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- **All analogies have a point that they breakdown...**
 - **Attitude of Contracts vs Attitude of Covenants**
- **John 10:11-18**
 - **Lesson of the Good Shepherd.**



The Enduring Covenant

- **All analogies have a point that they breakdown...**
 - **Attitude of Contracts vs Attitude of Covenants**
- **In a contract both parties are hoping to limit liability or maximize profit or otherwise make things better for the self.**
- **The contract is then a way of ensuring that things go just as planned and, if necessary, to force the other party to promised action.**
- **This is the shepherd who was hired to watch the sheep. He'll do it as long as he gets paid and as long as there's no danger to himself.**

The Enduring Covenant

- **All analogies have a point that they breakdown...**
 - **Attitude of Contracts vs Attitude of Covenants**
- **A covenant relationship is one in which certain terms are set, but the parties make the cause of the other, their own cause.**
- **In other words, when a covenant is made, the goals and desires of the person with whom we have entered into a covenant, become our own.**
- **This is a lesson of the good shepherd. Christ makes the life of the sheep as important to him as his own life.**

Spiritual Application: The Enduring Covenant

- **It is a blessing that we have been called to into a covenant with God, at this time. Through the “water of baptism” we are justified, enter into the covenant and we begin the process of sanctification.**
- **When we fulfil our side the covenant, during our time of sanctification, we can access to power and wisdom from Jesus Christ (The Word) to overcome problems and trials.**
- **Let’s spend time considering our covenant with God!**