

## **OLD AND NEW**

**God does nothing that necessitates a reversal of His actions. Nor does He do anything to contradict Himself. God says explicitly, of Himself; “For I am the Lord, and I change not”.**

**The weakness of the Old Testament law was that it could not deal with the life motivations of any person. It dealt mainly with the words “thou shall not” and “thou shall”. History has proven that you cannot change a man by legislating his actions. Only conduct can be legislated, and this never gets inside the man, to affect his motivation.**

**The old covenant was imperfect by the nature of it, temporary in its continuance and inadequate in its effect. In this sense, the old covenant pointed to something beyond itself. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to provide an inward moral bent to holiness. He promised a new covenant to permanently replace the temporary old one.**

**What the old covenant could not do because of its weakness, the new covenant in Christ accomplished and continues to accomplish. What this new covenant does is implant into the heart of a man a new nature, impelling him to act righteously.**

**No longer is his conduct directed by an exterior law, but by the law of Christ within him. This was the promise buried deep within the old covenant: “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the House of Israel after those days” says the Lord”, “I will put my law in their hearts and I will be their God and they shall be my people.”**

**There is something implanted in the heart of a man redeemed by the blood of Christ that impels him to do what is right. The Christian has instincts within not found in the unsaved man.**

**The church is notorious in using outside pressure to make a sinner act like a Christian. You can teach almost anybody to do almost anything. Baptize him, confirm him, and feed him the Lord's Supper regularly. Instruct him in the faith, and after a while he begins to act like a Christian.**

**He is not a Christian because there is not that inward factor impelling him to righteousness and true holiness. Outside pressure is making him conform**

**and act like a Christian. However, when he is away from the pressure, he reverts to acting like himself. His instinct is always towards sin.**

**The sinner is one who sins, but he sins because he has been a sinner. When he sins, he's simply acting like himself. The crowning achievement of the New Testament is to implant in the heart of a believing man an unknown factor that impels him act righteously and holy.**

**There is a difference between what I call “denominational churchianity” and true Christianity. We are training people every week to be good church people. But when left to themselves, they will revert to their real nature and act like themselves. They have been trained to act like a good Christian on Sunday, but it is only an act. The rest of the week they act like themselves, naturally.**

**God easily distinguishes between he that serves God, and he that serves himself. I dare to say in His Name that unless a man is born again, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God, because God says so in the Bible. And no amount of training or religious accent I put on will ever do.**

**Something must change within for every person. We call it the new birth. We call it regeneration. No matter what we call it, there must be implanted in the human spirit that which impels righteous conduct. You need to be regenerated because you were generated wrong in the first place.**

**God said “I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people”. That is where we get it. A Christian is one who has had the laws of God inscribed in his heart and the motivational center of his life. That is a Christian. Nothing else qualifies. With this new birth, this regeneration, comes an instinct that does not need exterior pressure to act.**

**The new birth changes things within. Sometimes it takes a while for it all to work outward. The apostle Paul understood this perfectly when he wrote “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”. The essential purpose of the new birth is to defeat and destroy within the human heart the old nature, or the wild factor. Our deliverance from this wild factor is from within, and not from merely trying to contain it and control it with outside pressure.**

**Thank God, we can have complete deliverance from the old nature and the old instincts and that old way of life. “Behold, a new nature comes”!**

**The serious error facing the church today is its belief that salvation can be taught. Sit a person down, or a group of people, and teach them what the Bible says and ask them if they believe it and if they accept it and so forth. When everybody nods their head in the affirmative, we lead them into believing they that they have now been born again. What we must teach is that salvation happens in a man's life because he believes that doctrine that he has heard.**

**You cannot compel someone to be a Christian by teaching. However, you can help him to want to be a Christian. You can show him how to be a Christian. And when he has become a Christian, you can teach him, as Jesus said. But you cannot make him a Christian by teaching him.**

**I wonder how many Christians there are who are Christians only by instruction, religious education or having someone manipulate them by dunking them in a baptismal pool or sprinkling water on them.**

**How many of these people come to church every Sunday, take part in the services on Sunday and yet are not known for being Christians, because away from church they do not act like Christians? They are Christians by assumption, by manipulation or instruction, rather than by regeneration.**

**Salvation implants within the human heart an unknown factor in helping that person to holiness. The true Christian cries out to the Father by impulse of the Holy Spirit, and does not ask to be taught.**

**Here is where we need to understand what is of man and what is truly of God. What is of man uses manipulation, outside pressure, and instruction to make a person do what he should be doing. But what is of God uses an implantation of a new nature within the heart of a person, causing him instinctively to live like a Christian. Causing him to naturally follow after righteousness and true holiness.**

**Springing up within the heart of this new nature is an aspiration to know God and experience His presence in everyday living. The way into God's presence has been paved for us, beginning with the Old Testament. The Old Testament never promises anything that the New Testament does not deliver on. And so,**

**the purpose of the Old Testament is to guide us into the truth of who Jesus really is.**

**Looking back over the past, beginning all the way back to the Garden of Eden, we will discover that God spared no pains in laying out this pathway. The purpose of God from the very beginning of creation is fulfilled in the regenerated heart of every Christian believer who now can enjoy the manifest conscious presence of the living God. The way into God's presence is the delight of the redeemed. It is where he belongs, naturally.**