

Solution to Study 0061

New Covenant Era Worship: Introduction (3)

We continue with our introduction of New Covenant Era Worship, with some other observations about the Old Covenant worshipper, which we find present in today's worshippers—things which ought not to be. May the Lord continue to help us in our studies.

10. Many of the people in our churches, who read the bible today, are either absorbed with one of the Testaments to the exclusion of the other, or outrightly consider the Old Testament as irrelevant and completely ignore it. *So, is the Old Testament still relevant today? And are the Old and New Testaments related?* (**Romans 15:4; 4:3, 17-24; 1 Corinthians 10:1-11; 9:9-10; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-2**).

The Old Testament is very much relevant today because;

- (a) It was the Scriptures used by the Lord Jesus, and His disciples after Him, including Peter, Paul, John, etc., and it still is part of the Holy Scriptures today.
- (b) It was written for our learning or instruction.
- (c) It was written for our application in everyday life.
- (d) It was written for our admonition.
- (e) It was used by the Lord to overcome temptation, and so should we.
- (f) Its writing was inspired by God.

Both the Old and New Testaments are related because:

- (a) It is the same Holy Spirit Who directed the writing of the Old Testament, Who also directed writing of the New Testament.
- (b) They are both the Holy Scriptures. The Scriptures are incomplete without either.
 - i) The Old Testament foretells the New Testament
 - ii) The New Testament explains the Old Testament
- (c) No man of God can be complete and thoroughly equipped without being instructed in both Testaments.

11. The same incidents of hardness of heart toward God, which the Israelites of old exhibited, are still prevalent in many of the people who flock into our churches today. *What evidence supports this statement? And what can we do about such hardness of heart?* (**Matthew 19:3-9; Mark 6:47-52; 8:14-21; Matthew 16:5-12; Hebrews 3:7-12; Matthew 13:3-23; 2 Corinthians 3:12-16; Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 3:3-7; 1:12-13**).

The evidence supporting the above statement are:

- (a) Incidents of divorce and remarriage among Christians.
- (b) Incidents of unbelief and doubt among Christians.
- (c) Incidents of applying the scriptures to earthly things only.
- (d) Incidents of disobedience and rebellion among Christians.

To be able to effectively deal with hardness of heart, we need to:

- (a) Turn to Christ; and,
- (b) Receive God's gift of a new heart, and a new spirit (the Holy Spirit).

12. Following from (11) above, we know that Israel of old, walked contrary to the Holy Spirit; the same is the experience with so many of the people who profess to be Christians today. Also, many professing Christians today, are neither sanctified, nor have they been transformed by the word of God; hence, they reject the word of God and its sanctifying work within them. *What must we do to remain sanctified and be transformed, so that we don't walk contrary to the Holy Spirit nor reject God's word?* (**Acts 7:51; Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6; Ezekiel 11:18-20; Romans 2:28-29; John 16:13; 17:17; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:23; Colossians 3:10ff**).

In order to remain sanctified, after the initial sanctification at salvation, and be transformed by the word of God, we need:

- (a) A circumcised heart, which is what God does in us after we have turned to Christ in repentance of our sins, leading to:
 - i) The taking away of the old heart of stone (hardened or rebellious heart);
 - ii) The giving of a new heart of flesh (receiving or yielded heart); and,
 - iii) The putting of a new Spirit, which helps us to obey God.
- (b) The action of the Holy Spirit on the word of God which we receive into our hearts; and,
- (c) The continual entry of the undiluted word of God into our hearts (**John 8:31-32**).

13. Like Israel of old, many of the people in our churches today, have all the 'meat' they can possibly get, but are 'lean' in their spirit (**Psalms 106:15**). Carnality has become the order of the day, among both the laity and the clergy. *What really is carnality, and how do we overcome it?* (**1 Corinthians 3:1-4; 6:1-9; 2:14; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:1-10; Romans 8:5-9**).

Carnality is:

- (a) The flesh
- (b) The natural man
- (c) Friendship with the world
- (d) The manifestation of the works of the flesh
- (e) Spiritual immaturity
- (f) The absence of the Spirit of God in a person
- (g) Enmity with God

To deal with carnality, we must:

- (a) Submit to God;
- (b) Resist the devil;
- (c) Receive the Holy Spirit; and,
- (d) Walk in the Spirit.

14. Just as the Israelites of old, so have we many people in our churches today, who are not interested in teachings about God and how to worship Him; their interest is, rather, in how to obtain certain 'promises' which they believe they are entitled to get. *What must we do then, to bring us firmly to the knowledge of God (that intimate relationship which produces worship from the heart)?* (**John 4:20-24; Jeremiah 9:23-24; 24:7; 2 Timothy 4:2-4; 3:1-7, 10-15; Hebrews 12:1-2; Matthew 11:27**)

To come to the place of having a firm experiential knowledge of God, which is that intimate relationship which produces spontaneous worship from the heart, we need:

- (a) A new heart with the Spirit of God put into it;
- (b) The correct teachings about God from God's ministers;
- (c) To follow the examples of authenticated men of God (**Philippians 3:17-19**);
- (d) The revelation of God from the Scriptures; and,
- (e) The revelation of God which only Jesus Christ can give to the individual.

Review

As we conclude this week's study, please take time to seek to know God more, so that your worship of Him can truly be from the heart and with sincerity. Your repentance before God brings you to the place where God gives you a new heart, and puts within you, His Spirit. This act of God, is what we call being born again, and, is the beginning of a relational experience with God which cannot be bought, and which mere church attendance does not give.

As may be necessary, a rededication to God may be necessary. Let us not be presumptuous, rather, let us honestly come before the Lord and seek His face for a newness of heart, so that we may worship (serve) Him acceptably.