

Christ Covenant with Us

I had a dream - There was a family that was doing a good work but did not have the spirit of the Lord within them and did not see the devils plot against them. They had some success in reaching kids that was on drugs and alcohol but many returned to their ways. They had failed in reaching so many of the youth because they did not have themselves rooted in the Word and in standing in his covenant.

2 Corinthians 3 (New Revised Standard)

1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Surely we do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? **2** You yourselves are our letter, written on our ^{E7} hearts, to be known and read by all; **3** and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. **4** Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. **5** Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God,

6 who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. **7** Now if the ministry of death, chiseled in letters on stone tablets, ^{E8} came in glory so that the people of Israel could not gaze at Moses' face because of the glory of his face, a glory now set aside, **8** how much more will the ministry of the Spirit come in glory? **9** For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, much more does the ministry of justification abound in glory! **10** Indeed, what once had glory has lost its glory because of the greater glory; **11** for if what was set aside came through glory, much more has the permanent come in glory!

12 Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, **13** not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that ^{E9} was being set aside. **14** But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. **15** Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; **16** but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. **17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18** And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4 - [Message](#)

1 Since God has so generously let us in on what he is doing, we're not about to throw up our hands and walk off the job just because we run into occasional hard times. **2** We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes. And we don't twist God's Word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open, the whole truth on display, so that those who want to can see and judge for themselves in the presence of God. **3** If our Message is obscure to anyone, it's not because we're holding back in any way. No, it's because these other people are looking or going the wrong way and refuse to give it serious attention. **4** All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get. **5** Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. **6** It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful. **7** If you only look at us, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us.

8 As it is, there's not much chance of that. You know for yourselves that we're not much to look at. We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, **9** but we

know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken. **10** What they did to Jesus, they do to us - trial and torture, mockery and murder; what Jesus did among them, he does in us - he lives! **11** Our lives are at constant risk for Jesus' sake, which makes Jesus' life all the more evident in us. **12** While we're going through the worst, you're getting in on the best! **13** We're not keeping this quiet, not on your life. Just like the psalmist who wrote, "I believed it, so I said it," we say what we believe. **14** And what we believe is that the One who raised up the Master Jesus will just as certainly raise us up with you, alive. **15** Every detail works to your advantage and to God's glory: more and more grace, more and more people, more and more praise! **16** So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. **17** These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. **18** There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

A new covenant -- God willingly entered into a new agreement with us, his creatures, sealed it with the blood of his Son Jesus, and sent the Spirit to give us the power to live the life of this new covenant. God has made a covenant of love and grace with us. The Almighty has then turned around and made us worthy and competent to share that covenant with others. Now wonder it is life-giving: it brings life to us and through us!

Psalm 25:14 - 15

"The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only he will release my feet from the snare."

Psalm 27:14

"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."

Now we Will Remain

David Hass

We hold the death of the Lord deep in our hearts.

Living, now we remain with Jesus, the Christ.

1. Once we were people afraid, lost in the night.

Then by your cross we were saved.

Dead became living, life from your giving.

2. Something which we have known,
something we've touched, what we have seen with our eyes:
this we have heard, life giving Word.

3. He chose to give of himself, became our bread.

Broken that we might live. Love beyond love, pain for our pain.

4. We are in the presence of God. This is our call.

Now to become bread and wine: food for the hungry,
life for the weary,

for to live with the Lord, we must die with the Lord.

