

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

Part VIII *Luke 10:19-20*

Introduction: The unequivocal covenant that God has made with man through Christ is the good news of the Gospel. Hebrews 13:8 validifies that God's promises are immutable, incontrovertible, and will remain so forever. Hebrews 4:12. The church must receive a fresh revelation of who we are in Christ. The world is ready to acquiesce to the message of the Gospel. Are we impassioned enough, invigorated, and anointed to meet the challenge?

- I. The terms of the covenant
 - A. Terms to live by
 1. Faith. Hebrews 11:6; Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-9.
 2. Love. 1st John 4:9-11.
 3. Obedience. Hebrews 5:9; Revelation 22:14.
 - B. The oath of the covenant
 1. In the counsels of the Godhead, the Father gave His Son His oath.
 - a. Upon the Son's incarnation and voluntary substitutionary death for sin, the Father would raise Him from the dead and give Him an eternal priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.
 - 1) Psalms 111:1-5.
 - 2) Acts 2:23-28.
 - 3) Hebrews 7:20-25.
- II. The sacrifice of the covenant
 - A. The body
 1. Man was made a triune being: spirit, soul, and body. The fact of sin necessitated man's redemption. Because the whole human race was shaped in iniquity, so that man could not redeem himself, God had to become man to redeem man.
 2. It was the Son of God who became man by taking on a human body.
 - a. The Word was made flesh. John 1:1-3, 14. The Son of God was incarnate.
 - b. By taking upon Himself a sinless body, Jesus Christ made the supreme sacrifice for man's sin. Hebrews 9:11-15.
 - B. The blood
 1. Because the blood is the life of man, and of all flesh, and because man's blood became corrupted by the entrance of sin, sinless blood was needed to redeem man.
 2. This is the reason the Son of God took on human flesh. Hebrews 2:14.
 3. The Holy Spirit overshadowed the virgin Mary and planted within her the divine seed of the Father and with it the sinless blood needed for the atonement.
 4. The blood of Jesus was poured out as a cleansing agent for sin. The blood is upon the altar for all those who call today. Hebrews 10:19-23.
- III. The mediator of the covenant
 - A. The Lord Jesus Christ
 1. In the counsels of the eternal Godhead, the covenanters, the Son as the central person was ordained to be the mediator as well as the sacrifice.
 - a. The sacrifice of His sinless body and blood pertains to His perfect humanity.
 - b. The priesthood and mediatorial ministry pertain to His deity. Thus human nature and divine nature are brought together in Jesus Christ. Hebrews 8:6.
 - B. The church
 1. Because God's covenant pertained to the redemption of all who would believe and obey, it made possible a priestly body to be joined to the Redeemer, Jesus Christ.
 - a. Christ and His body, which is the church, together constitute the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.
 - b. The believers will be kings and priests unto God and His Christ eternally. It is in Christ that God sees the believer as a king-priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek, king of righteousness and king of peace. Ephesians 1:4, 5, 9, 11, 3:11.
- IV. The sanctuary of the covenant
 - A. The heavenly temple
 1. The Scriptures teach of a heavenly tabernacle or temple. Revelation 11:19, 15:5-8. This is the prototype or the original sanctuary.
 - a. All ministry in earthly sanctuaries only shadowed forth Christ's ministry "within the veil" of the heavenly sanctuary.
 - b. The book of Hebrews deals with the sacrifice, the priesthood, and the sanctuary of Christ. Hebrews 6:19-20, 8:1-5, 9:11, 12, 24; Acts 7:48-49.

Conclusion: Words cannot express what joy it is in knowing that we are in Christ. The Bible talks about how we have become "bone of His bone;" each of us has become an integral part of His body. You and I are the "salt of the earth" and serve as a "light" to those who live in darkness. Managing the kingdom of God on earth, in His place, is an awesome honor.