

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Eight and Fifty

New Covenant of Worship

In the book of Hebrews, the eight chapter, beginning in the eight verse we read, "For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away."

In the Old Covenant of worship that God established with the children of Israel in the 20th chapter of Exodus, God wrote his laws of ten commandments on two tables of stone. This old covenant was imposed on them until the new was established: Heb. 9:10 "Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation." This old covenant required perfection, which none of the children of Israel could ever attain unto. This old covenant brought sins to remembrance showing the exceeding sinfulness of sin. In this old covenant, the people taught one another to know the Lord.

In the New Covenant of worship, the commandments are written in the hearts and placed in the minds of the elect through regeneration. There is no longer a requirement to teach every man his neighbor and every man his brother to know the Lord, for they all know him from the least to the greatest. The scriptures say that God is love, God is light, and God is a Spirit. They know God because, as a result of the new birth, God has written love in their hearts, has given them eternal life (light) and made them spiritual.

In addition, unlike the old covenant that brought sin to remembrance, God has said under this new covenant "their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." This new covenant is not based on the observation of carnal ordinances, but every one worships God in Spirit and in truth.

The old covenant gendered to bondage, whereas the new covenant is free and is the mother of us all (Gal. 4:25, 26). This new covenant is a new beginning of worship under grace.