

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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**Floral Heights
Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan
Wichita Falls, Texas
76309
(940) 322 - 1650**

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Our Elders:

Mike Chancellor
(322 – 6374)

Tom Witherspoon
(923-6479)

Deacons:

Joe Cronin

Jim Hall

David Witherspoon

Preacher:

John C. Robertson

Superiority of the Law of Christ

The function of 2 Corinthians 3 is to reveal the superiority of the Law of Christ over the Law of Moses. One must ask why Paul inserted this chapter in his epistle to the Corinthians. The answer is obvious; false teachers had trekked over land and sea and spread like a disease throughout the church. They began in Judea (Acts 15:24), moved north toward Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 15:1, 30), and continued west and northwest to Galatia and beyond (Acts 16:4).

Law of death and condemnation:

Paul referred to the Mosaic Law as the “*letter that kills*” (2 Cor. 3:6), “*ministration of death*” (2 Cor. 3:7), and “*ministration of condemnation*” (2 Cor. 3:9). The Mosaic Law “kills” because it rewarded death for unlawful living (Rom. 6:23). No man could live lawfully perfect and expect to have life through Mosaic Law keeping (Gal. 3:10). Therefore, the Mosaic Law was a “*ministration of death.*” The Law “*condemned*” its adherents and gave them no hope.

There was, however, a “*glory*” of the Mosaic Law (2 Cor. 3:9). First, the glory of the Mosaic Law was that it had a divine origin (2 Pet. 1:21). Secondly, the “*glory*” of the Mosaic Law was that it was designed by God to lead man to see their need for Jesus (Acts 3:22; Gal. 3:24). The false teachers accepted the first glory; however, they fatally rejected the function of the Mosaic Law as revealed in Galatians 3:24 (a tutor to bring men to Christ). To such men the veil of confusion remained (2 Cor. 3:14).

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Announcements:

Manuel Ruiz remains in the Allred prison unit here in Iowa Park. Manuel is a member of this local church. If you have the time he would love a letter from you. Send all letters to:
Manuel Ruiz # 860361
Allred Unit
2101 FM 369 North
Iowa Park, Texas 76367

Women's Bible Study:

The ladies Bible study on Proverbs 31, "The Worthy Woman" will resume this Friday at 11:00 AM.

Note on Adult Auditorium Bible Study:

We will be studying the subject of Bible Authority on both Sunday Mornings and Wednesday evenings for this quarter.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home)

Ila Belle Windham
(at home but request no calls).

New Covenant, Law of life, spirit, righteousness, and liberty:

The Mosaic Law was designed to point up man's sins (Rom. 7:7) and motivate the sinner to seek after forgiveness through Jesus (Gal. 3:24). Jesus offers life to those who would seek after Him and His Law (Jn. 1:4; Gal. 6:2). The law of "life" (2 Cor. 3:6) offers an eternal heavenly existence (Jn. 3:36). This Law through Christ is "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6) rather than physically engraved words. Those who accept Christ words do so happily with no grumbling or complaining (Deut. 28:47; I Jn. 5:3). The law of Christ is "righteous" (2 Cor. 3:9) and filled with eternal "glory" (2 Cor. 3:11) because it has divine origins as did the Mosaic Law. The Law of Christ is also referred to as the law of "liberty" (2 Cor. 3:17). The Law of Christ liberates man from the bondage of sin (Jn. 8:32; Gal. 5:1). This is the "new covenant" prophesied by the prophets (Jer. 31:31) and now in effect through the blood of Jesus (2 Cor. 3:6).

The superiority of the Law of Christ:

The Law of Christ is superior to the Law of Moses in that it liberates man from his sins (Jn. 8:32). The Mosaic Law had no provisions for the remission of sins. Secondly, the superiority of the Law of Christ is that it is designed to be eternal and the Mosaic Law only "passed away" (2 Cor. 3:11). Thirdly, the superiority of the Law of Christ is seen in the fact that it was designed to take away the "veil" of ignorance (Isa. 25:6ff; 2 Cor. 3:16). Mankind is drawn to God's light through the gospel message (Jn. 6:44-45). The gospel enlightens man that he may know and understand the will of the Lord (Eph. 5:17).

John C. Robertson

The Redemption of Mankind

Introduction:

The first words of the Bible read, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). Before this "beginning;" however, God existed and planned out the creation of man and his redemption through the blood sacrifice of the Christ. The word redemption means to recover ownership of something by paying a specified sum (see AHD 1027). The eternal specified sum paid was the precious blood of Jesus Christ (John 1:1ff). Let us examine this most basic yet most important subject revealed in our Bibles.

I. God's Eternal Plan to Redeem Man:

- A. God has always been (Psalms 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17).
- B. Jehovah is the eternal God of an eternal plan (Romans 16:26).
- C. The parameters of man's redemption are eternal (Proverbs 8:22-31; Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:3-7; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14).

II. Tracing the History of eternal Redemption:

- A. Sin began with Adam and spread like a disease to all mankind (Romans 5:12, 19 compared to Genesis 2:16; 3:1-6, 11).
- B. Christ was the answer for man's sin (1 Corinthians 15:22).
- C. The Prophets foretold of the redeeming sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 53; Zechariah 13:7ff).
- D. Jesus would be of the seed of woman (Genesis 3:15).
- E. God chose Abraham to bring forth the seed promise of redemption (Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:8, 16).
- F. God continued His promise of redemption through David (2 Samuel 7:12-15; Acts 2:30).
- G. New Testament reveals Jesus the Christ to be this promised seed (Matthew 1:18-21).
- H. The sinless blood of God's Son would serve as the redeeming sum paid for man's sin (Matthew 26:26ff; Romans 3:24-26; Colossians 1:20 etc.). Without this sacrifice humanity is doomed (1 Corinthians 15:12-19).

III. Man's Responsibility in Redemption:

- A. Man's only true hope in this life is to enter into the glories of heaven for all eternity unscathed by sin (Revelation 21:27). All who miss heaven will be condemned to the eternal tormenting fires of hell (Revelation 20:10ff).
- B. Man is only benefited by the blood of Christ through an obedient faith (see Romans 16:26).
- C. Baptism into Christ puts us in saving contact with his blood (1 Peter 3:18ff; Hebrews 9:11ff; Acts 2:38).

Conclusion:

God's eternal love is manifest in His Son's blood sacrifice. Have you or will you receive the love of God that you may be redeemed by the blood of Jesus?