

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – October 17, 2010

Let's Make A Deal

“Behold, the days are coming, says 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 *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

If you are old enough, or if you have watched it in reruns, you are probably familiar with the TV show called “Let’s Make A Deal.” Scores of people dressed in all types of costumes would jump up and down screaming and waving their signs just hoping that the host, Monte Hall, would choose to make a deal with them. Some deals that were made gained them money and prizes, other times their greed paid off with the poor end of the deal---a trade for an unseen prize that in the light of day turned out to be a real stinker of a deal.

People are always in search of a good deal...a bargain which benefits them in their need or aptly and rightly rewards them for their services. No one enters into negotiations with the intention of being scammed, although it does happen in this sinful world.

When the children of Israel crossed over the Jordan and entered into the Promised Land, they were “under contract” as it were, to the deal God had made with them. God’s covenant was simple and straight forward. He had given them the Law. They were to keep it. Keep the Law—keep the land was the order of the day. Break the Law---lose the land was the

consequence of not keeping the bargain. It was a physical picture of a spiritual reality. It was a restatement of the physical picture of Eden. Adam and Eve had broken the Law and they were driven out of the garden. The message is clear: Be holy and keep God's Law and you can have eternal life. Fail to be holy by breaking God's Law and you lose Paradise.

We know full well what Israel was to learn. It is impossible for us to perfectly keep God's Law. There is no recourse. As sinners the consequence is eternal damnation. But God in His mercy extends to us the New Deal. He will be the One to keep the Law. He will be the One to suffer the consequence of sin. He will do all required of us and freely give to us the gift of Paradise. In Jesus Christ our Savior the bargain is struck—His life for ours! The trade is made—His righteousness for our sin! How wonderful it is to live as people of the “New Deal”—the New Covenant—the New Testament! Whether it was the promise of the Coming Messiah to Adam and Eve and the Children of Israel or the proclamation of the Gospel that Christ has come, the covenant is the same. God has done it all for us and through faith in Him we are eternal possessors of His greatest treasures. Nobody can lose out on this deal! All who believe receive the benefit; in Christ Jesus God forgives our sins and remembers them no more!

- Remember: People rarely believe we can get something for nothing—but it is exactly what they want. God's gift is free! Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved!

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. He has equipped us for service to Him. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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