**The Book of Romans**

Part Three: God’s righteousness is revealed in His free gift of Spirit-life. (Romans 5–8)

***New Life: “The New Covenant in My Blood”***

***Dispelling four myths on the spiritual life***

***Romans 8:1-11 with Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Hebrews 8 and 10***

We’ve seen how Romans is an exposition of the New Covenant, but what difference does it make in our everyday lives? Many look for rules to live by, when, in truth, God wants you to enjoy Him as His son or daughter, not live in slavish fear of punishment. In spite of the New Covenant promises, and the Bible’s theme of grace, we tend to cling to our legalism and performance-based views of God. Let’s look behind the rent veil to discover how Jesus, through His blood, makes new life not only possible, but doable and enjoyable as well.

 ***Myth #1: There is no escaping our karma.***

***Truth: Finding life through Law is impossible for fallen beings.***

 “Not like the covenant I made with their fathers. . . that they broke.”

The New Covenant was necessary because the Old had been broken. It is impossible for anyone to make himself/herself right with God by doing good. All have broken God’s law, but the good news of the Gospel is that He has provided another way that works!

 ***Myth #2: Assurance of forgiveness leads to loose living.***

***Truth: Nothing reforms and recovers and renews us like grace.***

 “I will put my law within them and write it on their hearts.”

 God’s law in our hearts is another way of describing life in the Spirit, or God’s Spirit within us. HE cannot sin, and so His presence is an immediate and powerful and sanctifying force. We are not sinless, but in any given situation have the power not to sin. 1 John 3:1-10

 ***Myth #3: Jesus is only one of many ways to God.***

***Truth: Jesus alone validates the New Covenant.***

 “They shall be my people and I will be their God.”

 The New Covenant, is possible only because of the unique Son of God. God has “a people” and those who choose not to be included are not included. There simply is no other provision for being made right with God, nor could there be. If there are many paths to God, Jesus would have died in vain. John 10:15-18

 ***Myth #4: We can’t know we’re saved until judgment.***

***Truth: If you are ever truly “in Christ,” you can never be lost.***

 “I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.”

The New Covenant alone “squares” us with God. Jesus’ died to pay for EVERY sin of His people, and that is why there is “no condemnation” to them. Their sins are gone, put away forever by another. And because God acts unconditionally and alone in New Covenant grace, WE cannot break it. Psalm 103:8-14

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* ***Jesus’ body was broken “in the likeness of sinful flesh.”***

“This is my body broken for you.” The New Covenant is possible because God’s Son became one of us, showing God’s initiative to reach us, not our seeking Him. Have you said “Yes” to Him? John 3:16-21

* ***Jesus’ blood was shed “as a sin offering” to condemn sin.***

“This cup that is poured out for you is the New Covenant in my blood. . .” The New Covenant is effective, actually paying for sins, not purchasing grace so we could earn our way to heaven. Have you ceased from your own “dead works” and embraced His life? Hebrews 9:11-14