

## **EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH – Jan. 2025**

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### **THE DEATH OF EASY BELIEVISM**

The “death” of Easy Believism is New Covenant truth! Easy Believism is the teaching that one can be saved without having a changed life. It teaches that one can accept Christ as Savior (fire insurance) while at the same time rejecting Him as Lord (God-Master). This is a most serious heresy! It is completely contrary to New Covenant realities.

The New Covenant was given to Israel as were essentially all the covenants flowing out of the Abrahamic Covenant (cf. Rom. 9:4). God will yet fulfill His New Covenant promises to Israel at the time of the Second Coming (cf. Rom. 11:25-27). However, in the Church Age, believers today PARTAKE of the **spiritual blessings** of this covenant. Christ’s shed blood is the basis for this New Covenant (Lk. 22:20). Paul said he was a minister of the New Covenant (2 Cor. 3:6). Every time we partake of communion, we remember that Christ by His shed blood inaugurated this New Covenant (1 Cor. 11:23-26). All true believers are now in a New Covenant relationship with God through the mediating work of our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. Heb. 8:6).

“The term ‘covenant’ is defined by the Old Testament. And ‘New Covenant’ is defined by Jeremiah 31.” – **S. Lewis Johnson**

The writer of Hebrews deals with the fact that believers are now in a New Covenant relationship with God. In Hebrews 8:8-12 he quotes verbatim from Jeremiah 31:31-34 to make his case. Here God says He will fundamentally change people from the inside out. He says, “I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts.” In Ezekiel 36:27 God says, “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” A key difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant is the role of the Holy Spirit. The reality of every person having the Holy Spirit under the New Covenant makes all the difference. Having the Holy Spirit is a life-changing reality. If one truly has the Holy Spirit they are forever changed by that reality (2 Cor. 5:17).

And then God says, **“I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”** No longer will people say to each other **“Know the LORD”** because in that day God says, **“they all shall know Me”** (Jer. 31:33-34; Heb. 8:10-11). ALL under the New Covenant personally KNOW God as YHWH. This is a LORDSHIP reality!

This fundamental change of mind and heart that will result in obedience reflects the reality that now YHWH will be their God and they shall be His people. Him being their God and them being His people is consistently the formula that defines this New Covenant relationship. This is NOT Easy Believism! This is a LIFE-CHANGING reality! God will be LORD in their lives for real. This is the essence of New Covenant reality. In conversion, Israel will call upon the name of the LORD (Joel 2:32). In Zechariah 13:9, God says, **“They will call upon My name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; and each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”** That is the stuff of true conversion. This is the stuff of a New Covenant relationship!

To say that one can have a New Covenant relationship with God without recognizing Jesus as Lord-God is a complete contradiction of New Covenant truth (cf. Rom. 10:13). An expression of New Covenant relationship is that of “Doubting Thomas” when upon seeing the resurrected Christ he said to Him, **“My Lord and my God!”** Jesus, in response, said, **“Thomas, because you have seen Me you have believed.”** (John 20:28-29). This is what it truly means to BELIEVE! This is what it truly means to be in a New Covenant relationship with God. We now recognize Him as our God and we are His people! This is truly a LIFE-CHANGING relationship!

- **Thot:** As the old preacher said: **“If you is what you was, you ain’t.”**

**Earnestly Contending, Pastor Dwight J. Oswald**