

Covenant Exchange - Bible Study.

So, we have been looking at the fact that we have a covenant with God. Our walk with God calls for boldness, it is an invitation to a life of *hope* in the promises of God. But the quality of our hope, the confidence we have in the things we are hoping for, is dependent on our understanding of the kind of backing that God gives to His promises. The covenant is God's way of giving you and me a strong assurance, a strong consolation.

Hebrews 6:13-18: For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

God gave us this covenant so that as we seek to lay hold of the hope set before us by the promises of God, we will have a strong consolation! A strong encouragement. So that in an uncertain world, as you say there is a lifting up when everyone says there is casting down, you will have a strong assurance, an assurance that is not based on positive thinking but a covenant-based assurance. As you look forward to seeing Jesus in the flesh one day, as you hope for healing in your body, as you expect to reach the nations, as you wait for news about the test you took, as you hope for your children to come home or as you hope for a spouse to receive Jesus ... God gave us His covenant so that we will be greatly encouraged. God gave us His covenant, so that as you give yourself to Him, body soul and spirit, as you surrender your thoughts to Him and as you adopt His agenda over your own, you will have a strong consolation, you will be assured that the God you gave your life to will honour His promise to you. He wanted you to be assured that you will not be short-changed.

It's all about exchange

Today I want to speak to you about covenant exchange. Exchange is the essence of covenant. When you enter into a covenant, an exchange takes place. This was no different for the covenant that God brought you into. Don't forget that the kind of covenant we get to enjoy, is a covenant between God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, because God swore by Himself to bless the nations of the earth through the seed of Abraham. In this covenant, we are mainly recipients. We get to participate in this

because Jesus took on flesh and represented us in that deal. Anything we bring to the table in this covenant is an act of faith in Jesus and faith in the promises of God.

In this covenant, an exchange takes place. I like to use the example of the blacksmith and the baker getting into a covenant. The whole point of the covenant between them is that the blacksmith gives the baker the advantage by giving him access to His weapon-making abilities and vice versa. Because they are in covenant, they exchange skills, so as long as the baker is alive he never has to worry about weapons. For as long as the blacksmith is alive, they never have to worry about bread because the covenant involves an exchange.

Let's look at some exchanges that have taken place in our favour, because of the covenant we have with God.

Sin for Righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (II Corinthians 5:21 NKJV)

Notice that God made Jesus SIN. Not a sinner. He *made* Him to *become* sin. Why would God do that? So that we might be *made* the righteousness of GOD in Christ.

As part of the covenant we have with God, He exchanged your sin with righteousness. He made Jesus become sin. Man has not been the problem of God. Sin in man has always been the problem for God. God loves you. God made you as the object of His attention, a display of His abilities but sin turned your heart away from Him. Sin displaced us. **Romans 8** talks about how we fell short of the glory of God because we all sinned. So when God was looking to bless you, He made Jesus the object of His wrath ... He made Him to become sin!

Then, He took the righteousness that was on Jesus and put it on me. He made Jesus the object of His wrath, dealt with sin in the body of Jesus and gave us the righteousness that was due to Jesus. That's a covenant exchange. That's why the believer is not *trying* to be righteous. The believer *is* righteous because they were made righteous. The covenant ends every argument about whether you are righteous or not! An exchange has taken place! I am righteous because I was made righteous. A tree does not try to be a tree. It is a tree! If you're British, you're not trying to be British, you are British!

Regardless of where you find yourself, you can know that you are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus! Your sin has nothing to do with you being the righteousness of God! **Your sin is evidence that in that area, you are not walking as the righteous person that you are but your sin does not change your *status*.** Christ

was made sin so that we may be made the righteousness of God! That's a covenant exchange!

Sickness and disease for healing

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

Verse 4 – SURELY, certainly, truly ... anything we read after surely is certain, it is sure ... it is true.

Surely, HE has *borne*, lifted, carried, taken *my* infirmities: Hebrew – Choli, which means affliction, disease, griefs, illness, sicknesses.

He has carried our sorrows, pain, sufferings. In other words: yes, at some point I did have afflictions, disease, grief, sicknesses, pain, suffering... but He has carried them away from me! This has the same connotation as what happened with the scapegoat where the priest would pronounce the sins of the people on the goat and the goat would carry away the sins to the outskirts of the camp to die. The scapegoat would die so that the sinner could live.

As part of the covenant, Jesus took up my pain, he took up my disease! Don't skip that! Don't hear that with religious ears! That is a powerful statement. Surely, He *took* it! If He took your pain, what did He leave you with? He left you with healing!

Verse 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

With His wounds, He took on my sickness and disease and gave me healing! That's an exchange! When we talk about healing, it's a covenant matter and exchange took place. If I paid for something in the shops for you, it is only right that you contend for what I paid for. Don't be talked out believing for healing, an exchange took place!

The problem is that we are still very keen to *own* sickness and disease. We are making efforts to own things that don't belong to us and the laws of life are set up in such a way that we protect what we own. Are you owning sickness and disease or are you owning healing and health? A covenant exchange has taken place!

That's a covenant exchange right there!

In Isaiah 61:3 we see several exchanges: to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise

for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

Riches for poverty

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

His mind for yours

1 Corinthians 2:16 tells us that we have the mind of Christ. As part of this covenant, Jesus has even given us His mind. In my mind I can't do it, I can't see a way out, I don't understand but with the mind of Christ, I see life a whole different way. When I read the Word and think the Word, I think with the mind of Christ and new possibilities are now possible! That is possible because covenant brings **exchange!**

Conclusion

In view of all of these, what should our response be? Our response to the covenant must be *complete* devotion. Live His life! Be about His Father's business. Receive the *love* He gave. Receive all that He is offering. The point of this covenant is that He gave His life so that you don't have to be limited by yours. Jesus deserves nothing more than total devotion. Not just as Saviour, not just as friend ... but as King and Lord. A life of devotion to Him. What else could possibly have your attention?