

The Christian Experience in Light of the New Covenant and the Sanctuary, Part I

The Blessedness of the Christian Experience Through the New Covenant

1. **Rom 4:6-8; 1 John 1:9**—the Christian experience is a blessed experience
2. **1 Cor 6:9-11**—the Christian experience described as pardon, justification, washing
3. **Eph 1:6**—Acceptance in the Beloved

The Basis of the Christian Experience

4. What makes the Christian experience possible?
5. **Jer 31:33-34**—It is important to realize that the Christian experience is nothing but the result of applying the promises of the new covenant
6. In other words, the experience of conviction, pardon, justification, acceptance and adoption, conversion, daily sanctification and glorification are the result of applying the blessings found in the new covenant promises
7. The fulfillment of the promises found in the New Covenant serves as the basis of the entire Christian experience
 - a. “They shall all know Me”
 - b. “I will forgive their iniquity”
 - c. “I will be their God and they shall be My people”
 - d. “I will write My laws in their hearts”
 - e. “I will remember their sins nor more”
8. Without these promises in the new covenant, there can be no progress in the Christian walk—no repentance, confession, forgiveness, conversion, sanctification—the whole nine yards

The New Covenant Promise Fulfilled and Applied

9. The application or fulfillment of this **five-fold** new covenant promise results in five progressive stages of the Christian experience:
10. **Stage 1 Conversion: “They shall all know me. . .”**—the application of this promise results in the beginning of the Christian experience; it is the stage where the sinner moves from ignorance to a saving knowledge of God; from darkness to light and from death to eternal life
 - a. **John 17:3**—“*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God. . .*”
 - b. **Rom 2:4**--Knowledge of the goodness of God leads one to repent; Knowledge of God makes one realize that he is a sinner in need of pardon and grace
 - c. **Matt 11:29**—Jesus invites sinners to learn of Him; learn of me, if they are to find rest in their souls

The experimental knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent, transforms man into the image of God. It gives to man the mastery of himself, bringing every impulse and passion of the lower nature under the control of the higher powers of the mind. It makes its possessor a son of God and an heir of heaven. It brings him into communion with the mind of the Infinite, and opens to him the rich treasures of the universe. **COL 114.**

11. On the flip side, people who do not know the Lord end up doing terrible things
 - a. **1 Sam 2:12**—the sons of the high priest Eli did not know the Lord
 - b. **Exo 5:2**--the pharaoh of Egypt—“*Who is the Lord? I don’t know the Lord and I will not let the people go!*”
 - c. **Rom 1:28-32**—The Gentiles who will not retain God in their knowledge end up committing horrendous sins
12. **Stage 2 Justification:** “*I will be merciful and forgive their iniquity*” —the second stage of the Christian experience is based on this new covenant promise
 - a. This is where repentance and pardon and **justification by faith** or **righteousness by faith** come into being
 - b. The sinner is restored to favor with God on the basis of faith and repentance
 - c. **1 John 1:9, 7**—sins pardoned when confessed
 - d. **Eph 1:7**--In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
 - e. **Rom 5:1**—the pardoned, justified believer experiences peace with God
13. **Stage 3: Adoption:**—“*I will be their God and they shall be my people;*” the fulfillment of this promise allows believers to become adopted into the family of God
 - a. **2 Cor 6:18**—“*He will be a Father unto you and you will be my sons and daughters*”
 - b. “Our Father which art in heaven”
 - c. **Rom 9:4**--The Israelites received the adoption as sons and called His firstborn
 - d. **Eph 1:15**--“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will”
 - e. **Heb 12:23-24**—likewise, believers today are part of the church of the firstborns by adoption
14. **Stage 4 Sanctification:** “*I will put my laws in their inwards parts and write them in their hearts. . .*” —this is next stage in the Christian experience
 - a. **2 Cor 5:17**--This is the stage of the Christian walk where the pardoned sinner learns to lovingly obey the Law of God; this life of obedience is also called **sanctification** which is a daily process
 - b. **Ps 40:8**--*I delight to do thy will, O my God, yea, thy law is within my heart*
 - c. **Rom 2:14-15**—loving obedience to the commandments of God

Our sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is the fulfillment of the **covenant** God has made with those who bind themselves up with Him, to stand with Him, His Son, and His Spirit in holy fellowship. **7BC 908.**

15. **Remember:** The continuous application of these promises in the life produces spiritual growth or character development
16. The more fully and completely these promises are applied, the higher the level of spiritual growth or development of character
17. **Stage 5 Perfection:** *“I will remember their sins no more”* – This is final stage of the Christian experience
 - a. This last part of the new-covenant promise and is the best of all the promises
 - b. This includes the final cleansing from sin and the blotting out of sin from the books of heaven
 - c. **Isa 43:25**—“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”
18. The blotting out of sin is not merely a judicial act on the part of God to blot out records of sins from the books of heaven, but a radical, life-changing experience
19. This experience is referred to by Paul as *“the perfecting of the conscience”* or the mind or the character
 - a. **Heb 10:1-2**--No more consciousness or memory of sin; the conscience no longer accuses of sin
 - b. **Jer 50:20**--The mind or the character is perfected to the extent that there is no more awareness or memory of sin whatsoever
20. It is absolutely important to see the connection between the Christian experience and the new covenant for two reasons
 - a. **REASON #1:** It removes any possibility to think we can save ourselves legalistically; everything in the Christian experience is due to God’s initiative (“I will. . .”)
 - b. **REASON #2:** It removes any possibility of entertaining **antinomian** tendency; total victory over sin is possible through the new covenant

Covenant Blessings Obtained Through the Sanctuary Service

21. **Heb 9:1**--Now, for the new covenant blessings to be applied in the believer’s life, the sanctuary service is needed
22. **Heb 8:6**—Jesus, as Mediator of the New Covenant offers gifts and sacrifices for sins in the sanctuary and claims covenant blessings from His Father
 1. **Heb 8:6**—Jesus is the Mediator of the new **covenant**
 2. **Heb 9:15**—Jesus is the Mediator of the new **testament**
 3. **1 Tim 2:5**—Jesus is the only Mediator between God and man
23. A Mediator is needed because we are unable to claim the benefits of the new covenant promises directly; if we could claim the benefits of the new covenant directly, there would be no need for a Mediator and sanctuary service
24. The work the Mediator is to approach the Father with gifts and sacrifices in order to claim the promises in the new covenant in behalf of the believer

25. **Heb 2:17; Heb 5:1; Heb 8:1-4**—The Mediator or High Priest does not come into the presence of the Father empty-handed; He comes with gifts and sacrifices in order to claim the promises so that the blessings of the new covenant
26. This is what the **sanctuary service** is all about; it is nothing but the means by which the promises in the new covenant can be claimed in behalf of penitent believers through the work of mediation and intercession
27. The sanctuary service is what makes it possible for all the rich, abundant spiritual blessings of the new covenant to be applied in the believer's experience
28. Thus it is seen that without the mediatorial service going on in the heavenly sanctuary daily, there is no way anyone can receive the blessings of the new covenant
 - a. we have no hope of receiving forgiveness for our sins
 - b. no hope being converted and having the law written in our hearts
29. The covenant and the sanctuary service therefore go hand in hand; they cannot be separated from one another
30. Those who try to minimize the sanctuary or do away with it entirely, do not realize the **stupidity** of their undertaking! They are trying to do away the only means by which the blessings of the new covenant are bestowed; this mistake is fatal!
31. To attack the sanctuary is to attack the new covenant and forfeit the blessings its promises provides!