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Valley Church

November 18 & 21, 2021
Week 2 – The New Covenant

Introduction:

2 Corinthians 3:16

But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

NOTES for 2 Corinthians 3:4-18...

The Big Idea:

The Old Testament is the Word of God. But when we do not read it through the lens of the New Covenant – the finished work of Christ – a veil remains over our eyes and we are in danger of falling into legalism. We are under a New Covenant of grace, not an Old Covenant of Law. As **Romans 10:4** affirms, “Christ is the end of the law for righteousness for everyone who believes.”

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. This week's passage is one of the most powerful declarations of our New Covenant freedom in all the Bible. Why do you think so many people tried to come in behind Paul to "correct" his teaching after he would plant a church based on the New Covenant of Christ? Discuss...

Ponderings:

2. Why is the New Covenant such a big deal? Why do you think so many Christians remain "veiled" or "in the dark" in their understanding of the New Covenant? What does it mean to "read the Old Covenant through our New Covenant lenses?" Discuss...
3. Paul blatantly states that the Old Covenant (Law) is a ministry that brings death and condemnation, and that it was transitory (fading, temporary). The New Covenant of the Spirit brings freedom, life and is permanent. Are you fully aware of the implications of these realities in your life? What are these implications and how do they impact your relationship with God, self and others? Discuss...
4. 2 Corinthians 3:14 says that "only in Christ" is the veil taken away. All believers in Christ have had the veil taken away from their hearts (objectively), but it seems that many still operate (subjectively) under a cloudy vision of the New Covenant. Why do you think this is the case, that so many Christians still try to "mix" the covenants of law and grace?

Promptings:

5. As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, make a list of all the specific "gifts" you can think of that God has provided for you in the New Covenant. Try to make a list of 30 different promises, gifts or realities found in the New Covenant, and thank God for one of them each day as a focus of your prayer life between Thanksgiving and Christmas...

(To help get you started, this list could include gifts such as *forgiveness, new life, righteousness, a new heart, a new spirit, peace, the Holy Spirit, no condemnation, power over sin, etc.*)