## THE NEW COVENANT By

## **Wayne Shelton**

We will be looking at "The New Covenant" and scriptures that are in alignment with that. I am not going to turn to the book of Hebrews now, but I just want to bring to your mind what God said out of Jeremiah there. And I want you to take notice of how many times Paul uses the Scripture to declare what he is saying in the New Testament writings. God said He was going to make a New Covenant with the House of Israel. That comes out of Jeremiah: not according to the Covenant that I made with them before: but a New Covenant. And we've talked about that: established upon Better Promises, a Better Covenant, a Better Priesthood. And with this in mind I want you to turn with me to Luke 16:15.

Now you are going to say why are you going here. I want you to have in mind that God is going to do something NEW – alright? Luke 16:15: "And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. 16: The law and the prophets were until John..." I want that to sink in. THE LAW AND THE PROPETS WERE UNTIL JOHN. "...since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. 17: And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail." But since John's time

the Kingdom of God is preached. We are not going to get into John this morning: that's for another time. But the point that I want to make here is that the Law and the Prophets were until ... John. They ran their course: John was the end of the course. And John was ministering actually a New Day! A forerunner of The Day. What did John tell them to bring: when he was in the water for Salvation, for repentance? A repentant heart. So he was preaching a New Day: and One who is greater than I whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose. So John was declaring Him that was coming.

But see ALL The Law and the Prophets were declaring Him that was coming. Another Scripture I want us to get into is a very popular scripture for people to get into: this is "The Great Commandment". Matthew 22:34: "But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. 35: Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36: Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37: Jesus said unto him. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38: This is the first and great commandment. 39: And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40: On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." What did we just read about in Luke? The Law and the Prophets were until when? Until John! Since that time the Kingdom of God is preached and men presseth into it. So what they asked him is what is the Great Commandment in The Law? And He's really going back to Exodus. Here is what people call "the Ten Commandments.

Turn back to Exodus 20:1: "And God spake all these words, saying, 2: I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee

out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3: Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4: Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6: And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. 7: Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. 8: Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9: Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. 12: Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. 13: Thou shalt not kill (murder). 14: Thou shalt not commit adultery. 15: Thou shalt not steal. 16: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. 17: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. 18: And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off."

The point I want to make here is all The Law and the Prophets hang on, if you read this real close: "Love The Lord Thy God with all thine heart." What he is referring to is what I just read – in all the Prophets. See, if you read this close and you look at what Jesus said: and if I can ever say what is in me. Sometimes there is something in you and you try to say that to people, and you just can't get it across. God's people are not founded upon the Scripture. They read this and they don't see what He is saying to them. Hang all The Law and Prophets on these two commandments. And when you read down through there, that all hangs on "loving the Lord Thy God with all thy heart and soul and mind." Having no other God before Him: not taking His Name in vain: not building an idol. All that He said there is what Jesus sums up there when they say, 'What is the great commandment of the Law?' What did they bring Him to? The Law. What were they always bringing Him to? The Law! And He tells them here it is summed up: The Law and the Prophets. "Love The Lord with all thine heart and soul and mind, and love thy neighbor as thyself.' And that's what the second half of this was.

Not covet your neighbor's house, not covet your neighbor's wife, not steal, not murder. Who do you steal from? Who do you murder? Your neighbor. That's The Law. But The Law was until John. After that, the Kingdom of God is preached – a New Day, a New Covenant. See, when Jesus said this, this was The great Commandment: I want you to hear this under what? The Law! God's people still wonder if they should hang this up on the wall or not. I've said this before, but this is real in me. The people in Alabama – getting all upset about "The Ten Commandments". You could hang The Ten Commandments on every wall in the earth! We are NOT living under The Ten Commandments! Publish this, because

I will say this to anyone. You are NOT under The Ten Commandments! If you were, you are still in your sins! Either you will believe that and move on into The Lord or you will regard The Law, and keep The Law as your Savior. The Law can make NONE righteous – no NOT one! So you can put up The Ten Commandments, you can read them every day, but it can NOT save your soul at all!

It exposed you and me! It exposed them that they were short. What did the Prophets do? They exposed them! What did Jeremiah do when he went into Israel – go back and read it. He exposed them! He exposed their shortcomings. And see, this mixture of Law has to come to its end. It did... but in us. See, it came to its end in Christ. He was the end of The Law for them that believe. But in us, it's got to come to an end. I can feel it in here this morning. People do not want to believe this is done. They don't want to believe it! Turn with me to the book of Romans. Romans 3:10: "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" What did The Lord say about the heart of men? It was continually evil, wicked before. "As it is written..." Where is it written? In The Law and Prophets. There is none righteous. How many? No, not one! That's why it says when the Lamb of the Tribe of Judah: when he was able to open the seals, and he searched. And he could find how many? None! And who is able? Behold, The Lamb of the Tribe of Judah: because He had to spring up of another Tribe. Amen. Once you read and this just starts flowing in you and you can't stop!

But you look down here and there's none righteous. And then **Romans 3:19:** "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." It says, it speaks: but who does it speak to? Them that are under The Law – that's who it speaks to. Romans 3:20: "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21: But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by..." Who witnessed it? "... the law and the prophets;" They witnessed it, but now the righteousness without The Law is manifested. It is manifest; it is made known, it's revealed, it's shown – it's here! The righteousness of God without The Law! My goodness! You read this and it just jumps up inside of you, and you say, my goodness! Can we see it?

Why? Because most people are trying to spend their whole life as a Christian doing good and evil before God according to what? The Law! They go back to The Law and they pick up the Bible and they judge themselves before God: whether they literally pick up the Bible or not. Whether you pick up a Bible, in your heart and in your mind you come back to the Law and you judge yourself and who else? Others! Paul is preaching a righteousness without... what? The Law! Why? Because he realizes Jesus fulfilled The Law. He realized that He was the fulfillment of The Law: that by Him is a man righteous; or by Him a man is unrighteous. You know, getting into simplicity. He's The Judge of the guick and the dead: the living. He judges the living and the dead. Those that are quickened: quickened means made alive. Who judges it? He declares. "He that hath the Son hath life. He that hath not the Son hath not life." He judges who is alive, who is righteous, who is not righteous. He does! See, before The Law was the judge! But God gave all judgment to His Son!

My goodness, if people could get ahold of that! "Someday

when He judges me." He that hath the Son – He's judging you ALIVE! If you have the Son, He's telling you – you are alive! He's declaring you are who He says you are: He's declaring He's done what He said He's done! And where He's declaring it at is IN YOU! That you have been made alive; you've been approved; you've been made righteous! By Him that lives within you: and how you know you've been made righteous is because He lives in you! And if He does not live in you, then you are not righteous! Nothing you can do, nothing you can say, nowhere you can go – no confession you can make! Nothing – no not one is made righteous, but BY HIM! That's it!

Sorry to be so loud: I turn my volume up from time to time. So we come to see that He is the Judge of the quick and the dead. HE is the One that judges you alive! Judge me alive, Lord! Judge me in my mind: make my mind believe I am living in You! Make me believe Your Word. Hallelujah to the Lamb of God! Make me believe that the righteousness without The Law is here. Make me believe that! You talk about believing something, folks. If you really believe this and put it on and wore it. Then that becomes real. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus who walk according to the Spirit and not according to the flesh." There is no condemnation. Folks, if we saw this and wore it and it was in our mind: my goodness, the power of God, of Salvation of God that has come: that there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ; who are mindful of The Spirit, mindful of The Work He has done; see what He has done! My God! Hallelujah! What a Salvation!

What a Salvation: because we struggle out here in our minds. What do we struggle with? 'Did I miss God, did I do

this?' Sure, we've done a lot of things, but going back and looking at all the things we've done: does that ever bring us there? Or what brings us there? Knowing Him: knowing what He has done! Amen, and believing it, walking in it. Again, Romans 3:19: "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20: Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." Did you hear that? By the deeds of The Law: by the doing of The Law no flesh is justified. Romans 3:21: "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22: Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24: Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26: To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. 27: Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. 28: Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. 29: Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: 30: Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. 31: Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."

Now go to Romans 10:1: "Brethren, my heart's desire and

prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2: For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3: For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." Here is His righteousness. Romans 10:4: "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. 5: For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them." He describes this back in the book of Deuteronomy. You can look at Leviticus 18:5 and Deuteronomy 4:1. Here is where Moses and it's in many other places that Moses describes that a man should "live in them". He should do it. We can read this is Deuteronomy 30:11-16. Romans 10:6: "But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) 7: Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) 8: But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Turn back to **John 3:10:** "Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? **11:** Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. **12:** If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? **13:** And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is

in heaven." What did we just read in Romans and in Deuteronomy? The Word is night hee, even in thy heart and in thy mouth. Even before you read that: who shall ascend into Heaven to bring Christ down? Who shall descend to bring Him up? What does he say? NO MAN has ascended but THE SON OF MAN! Who is in Heaven. See, no man is going to bring Him up. John 3:14: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." Why is He being lifted up? That whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have Eternal Life! What did Romans 10 tell you? No man can ascend into Heaven and bring Him down. No man can descend into the deep and bring Him up. But - as THE WORD declares. In Romans he's speaking of a fulfilled Word, but he's taking you back to Deuteronomy and here Jesus is declaring it in Himself. Who shall ascend to bring the Son of Man down from Heaven? Who shall descend to bring Him up? THE WORD IS NIGH THEE! The Word of faith! If any man believeth that God raised Him from the dead... If any man believeth that God gave Him for a propitiation of their sins... if any man BELIEVE – he shall be what? Saved!

Back to Romans 10:10: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." A man believeth unto righteousness: the righteousness of God which is in Christ Jesus. Why is this? Romans 10:11: "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." Where is this? Isaiah 28 is where it says this. Isaiah 28:15: "Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge

shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: 16: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." He that believeth in Him. See, He is declaring CHRIST out of the Scripture. So The Son of Man comes and says who can bring The Son of Man down from Heaven? Nobody! Who can bring Him up from the deep? Nobody! "I have power to lay down My Life, and I have power to bring it up again." Where's the power coming from? It's coming right out of The Word of God: the Word of faith which we preach! Folks, what did they start hearing? What did the Jews who had read the Old Testament over and over again, begin to hear when Paul began to declare this? "He that believeth on Him shall not be ashamed." They started here in Isaiah: "To whom the arm of the Lord is revealed." My goodness, they began to hear The Word, and they were hearing the Word declaring CHRIST as the fulfillment.

See, that's what we hear. When we hear Jesus there in John declaring The Son of Man which came down from Heaven: The Son of Man which is in Heaven: we hear and we believe The Word. We believe He's the fulfillment of The Word: we believe He's The One that God hath sent. So we believe on Him. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by THE WORD OF GOD." "But who hath believed our report? And to whom..." Where did "the arm of the Lord" come from? Isaiah. See, he's walking you right out of the Scriptures here in Romans 10. He's going right back into the Scripture. So the arm of the Lord is what Isaiah 53 says when you go back there. "Who hath believed?" Why did Isaiah have to write, "Who hath believed our report?" Who hath believed? Why?

Because there was One coming who would say "Whosoever believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, Out of his belly shall flow rivers of Living Water." That's why he had to write: "Who hath believed our report?"

That's why he had to write because it was declaring Him that said, "Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will O God... He taketh away the first, that He may establish the second." So when it says, "Who may believe our report?" The report of what? "And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" He goes down here and He declares CHRIST to them: he declares the justification. Right here in the book of Isaiah, but you see, this isn't real until Jesus comes. They are looking at this and frankly don't even know what it is about. Do you remember when Philip attaches himself to the Eunuch, and the Eunuch said, 'Is this Jesus? Who is this speaking of?" He preached Jesus to him in the Resurrection. So here you go, folks. "Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?"

Another place I wrote down here is "calls on the Name of the Lord". "Whosoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved." That comes out of Joel. The Name of The Lord. His Name shall be called Jesus. For He shall save His people from their sins. This same Jesus whom God hath made both Lord and Christ. Folks, He's coming out of The Book – it is written of Him. The volume of the book. A lot of things you are believing in – isn't Him! See a lot of things we've been taught isn't Him. He came from the volume of The Book. To do Thy Will, O God. See with Abraham: I'm going to throw a couple more things at you. Galatians 3. Abraham was justified. Why? Because he believed God. Who was

Abraham declaring when that happened? Can you see it: it was coming out of the volume of The Book. He was declaring that justification would come through Christ. Whosoever believeth on The Lord shall be saved. Because Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. And the gospel was preached before The Law and Abraham. What was preached? That he believed God and it was accounted to him – because he believed God.

**Romans 4**. Paul here is talking to them who are under The Law. The Law is so strong in that day, and he's telling them, Romans 4:1: "What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? 2: For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. 3: For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. 4: Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, (here's The Grace of God) but of debt. 5: But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. 6: Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, 7: Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8: Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. 9: Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. 10: How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. 11: And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: 12: And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised."

That faith: what? Abraham believed God. And you have to see the fulfillment of the faith of Abraham. It is all through the book of John. How many times did Jesus say in the book of John: "He that believeth in... what? Me!" See, here's the fulfillment of Abraham's faith. He that believeth on ME. As the Scripture hath said: Out of his belly... the sign. Out of his belly, sealed with The Spirit of God. The sign of circumcision. Out of his belly shall flow rivers of Living Water. You are talking about the faith of The Son of God. You are talking about the faith that God gave: see, the faith that God gave was whosoever believeth on HIM shall be saved. Jesus said, he that believeth on Me, believeth on Him that sent Me. My God – "He that believeth on Me, believeth on Him that sent Me! If you had seen Me, you would have seen My Father also. The Works that I do are not Mine, but they are the Father's that sent Me." That's the New Work that Isaiah was declaring. We can go on all day because Isaiah began to declare a New Work!

What do you think that New Work was that he was declaring – before it was done? My God – before it's done! Isaiah is declaring a Work that is going to come up on the earth. What is that New Work? It is that New Creation, created of God in Christ Jesus. That in His Death, Burial and Resurrection He would bring forth a people unto The Lord! This folks, is what we need to be founded on: built upon. We should know this.

We should have this for an answer. This should not even be a question any more. This should be an answer. This is what I am talking about: we get built upon all these other things. All these other things we get built upon in religion: but what we should be built upon is the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets – JESUS CHRIST Himself being the Chief Cornerstone! And out of this should be this answer. We should know what the Faith of The Son of God is. We should be able to declare it to whomever! We should be able to say it to whomever. This is the Word of Faith that we preach: that whomsoever believeth on Him should not perish. Why? Because God gave it: God gave it. It is the Work of God. It is the Work of God. To whomsoever will come, let him come and drink of the water of Life freely! God freely gave and friend, you can freely receive!

The Work of God has been given. That's what He is: He's The Work of God. Jesus is The Work of God and what Work He brings forth. Look around you: look around you. His Work is sitting in your midst! Sitting right here is The Work of God. Sitting in the midst is The Work of God. Absolutely! There is so much to be said about this. I just want to exhort you one last time. Be built upon this sure Rock. Allow the Spirit of God to build this: allow Him to build this in you and in me. HIS LIVING WORD. Folks, because this is alive! When we were singing before "Majesty", it just rose up in me – THE LIVING GOD! The Living God. How do we know He's The Living God? Because He lives in us! Because He lives in you! He gave you His Spirit. You know He's alive because you feel Him, you hear Him, you witness Him. Why? Because He lives in you!

## **AMEN**

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