

Chapter 3Cb: Introduction to Understanding the New Testament: Part b

Bible Study Prepared for Grace Christian Fellowship of Dayton, Inc. on Sundays, December 22, 2019 (4th Sunday of Advent) by Greg Weis

- I. **Emphasis 3: Rediscovering and Restoring the Biblical and Historical Church.**
 - A. The Reformation: “The Triumph of Pauline & Augustinian Doctrines of Soteriology Over Ecclesiology.”
 - B. Today’s Evangelicalism: “**Limited Ecclesiology.**”

Note: Two among many reasons cited so far: Radical Individualism & Consumerism (**Note:** USA Role)
 - C. Versus: “A Missional Disciplining Community.” (John 15:8, 16) (**Will USA Follow Europe?**)
(Remember: Maintain Lifetime Focus on Three Ministries of All Christians.) (1 Cor. 11:1) (Philip. 4:9)
(John 15:8, 16) (Matthew 4:19) (Luke 5:10) (1 Peter 2:4-5, 9)
 - D. Two Sundays: “Word Pictures” of Christ’s Church. (aka Images, Metaphors, Illustrations)
- II. **An Introduction to (Actually) Understanding the New Testament / Covenant** (Paradigms as Lenses.)

Note: Discuss the Power of Paradigms.)

 - A. **Old Covenant / Jewish Scriptures – Covenant Continuity: Verses Dispensational Discontinuity.**
 1. The Eternal Covenant & The Immutability of Covenants

(Hebrews 13:20) Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, ... (NASB) (Read also ESV, NKJV, KJV)

(Galatian 3:15-18) ⁵ Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man’s covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it.¹⁶ Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.¹⁷ What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.

Note: Discuss the ongoing tragedy of Exodus 19:8)
 2. The Law & the Prophets: Theonomy Verses Antinomianism / Apostolic Hermeneutic / New Israel

(Matthew 5:1-2; 17-20; 22:37-40) ^{5:1} When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying, ... ^{5:17} “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. ... (Read & Explain Luke 24:27; 44)

(Hebrews 12:18-29) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Note: Discuss misinterpretations of Romans 6:14-15; 1 Cor. 9:20-21; Galatians 3:10;23; 4:4-5; 5:18, Etc.)
 3. Incarnational Creationism Verses Pietistic Neoplatonism: (aka Dualism; Neo-Gnosticism)

(1 John 1:1-4) What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life — ² and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us — ³ what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. (See also John 1:1-14)

4. Dominion (Cultural) Mandate / Great Commission Verses Escapist Retreatism:

(Genesis 1:26- 28ff) And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (ESV)

(Note: “have dominion” in ESV, KJV, NKJV, RSV, is “rule” in NASB, YLT, NET, GNV, HCSB, and DRA; “reign” NLT)

(Matthew 28:18-20) And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, ... ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

(Mark 16:15) And He said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. (ESV)

5. The Remnant Principle: Scriptural Pattern: (Matthew 16:18) (1 Thessalonians 2:13-15)

(Romans 11:2b-4) (Quoted from 1 Kings 19:10, 14, 18) **(Romans 9:27** Quoting Isaiah 10:22)

B. Community of Jesus, His Disciples & Apostolic Communities: Antioch Model (Matt 16:18) (Acts 13ff)

C. The Living New Testament Practice & Tradition (Example: Catechisms, Liturgy): (Hebrews 1:1-3)

(Matthew 23:34-35) “Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, ³⁵so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

(John 16:12-14) ¹² “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

III. **More to Come on Rediscovering and Restoring the Church:**

The Lord’s Day: Nature & Importance of Liturgy (Scripture Readings, Creeds, Catechism, Teaching, Etc.)

Community: Large Group & Small Group; Ministries; Missional, Discipleship, Pillar of Truth, Dominion, Etc.

IV. **Fifteen Biblical Emphasis for Rediscovery (Rethink, Reexamine, Reconsider) & Restoration (Reconstruct)**

1. Loving God: 1st Commandment, Zeal & Intimacy vs. Compromised Complacent Materialism; Total Life
2. Grace Upon Grace vs. Performance Base: Grace Defined; Growing in Grace; Grace Plus...?; Journey
3. The Church: Community of the King; Ecclesiology vs. Programmatic Marketing Models; Unity
4. Leadership: Roles, Functions, Models, Qualifications, Development / Formation vs. Information / 5C's
5. Word of God: Comprehensive Integration vs. Reductionist Theologies (2 Tim 2:15, 3:16) (Ps. 119:160)
6. The Kingdom of God: Restoring Perception, Proclamation, Demonstration, Embodiment, Now
7. The Gospel of the Kingdom: All Essential Biblical Elements vs. Popularized Reductionist Versions
8. Biblically Complete Conversions: Repentance, Lordship, First 5 Steps in Kingdom, Discipleship Model
9. Prioritizing the Dynamic Ministry, Person & Activity of the Holy Spirit vs. Cessationist & Third Wave
10. Biblical Worship: Models, Content & Lifestyle: Biblical Themes w/ Biblical Expression
11. Effective Prayer (w/ Fasting) – Catalyst to Visitation – Embodied in Local Church Daily Lifestyle
12. The Great Commission – Cultural Mandate: Evangelism & Discipleship (Decision to Disciple-Making)
13. Church Planting: Transforming Cultures from Downtown Out; Full Kingdom Culture vs. Pietism
14. Stewardship: Comprehensive Redemption & Restoration (Individual, Corporate, Global)
(Gifts, Finances, Health, Environment, Marriage, Church, Education, Business, Civil Government, Etc.)
15. Vision for Restoring All Things vs. Reductionist Pietistic Goals (Global, Comprehensive, 7 Institutions)
Liner, Cyclical & Chaotic Paradigms of History; Why Eschatology Matters; 4 Millennial Perspectives

