

Authentic Christianity

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I. Introduction.

A. We are looking at the early church and asking why we lack the same joy and enthusiasm they had.

B. The explanation for the Apostle's effective ministry was that the solution came from God and not man—God is always trying to teach us the basis for which we live.

II. The means for success.

A. The New Covenant is our total involvement in God's Word—we are part of it.

B. Paul is talking about the power by which we affect success—everything must come from God.

C. Many churches have become independent of God in decision-making—but everything must come from Him under the New Covenant.

D. The world operates under the Old Covenant—it is up to us.

III. The origins of the Old Covenant.

A. In a sense, it comes from Mount Sinai.

B. However, it goes back also to the Garden of Eden.

C. Adam depended upon God Himself as a resource in the Garden.

1. Even for Jesus, the Father did the work.

2. Restored humanity lives in God's power.

3. Adam operated under the Old Covenant.

D. Adam came to function on his own power. (Ephesians 2)

E. The flesh cannot please God—it is enmity against Him and is satanic power. (Romans 8)

F. In some way during the fall, life flows from God but comes into fallen man through the mediator ship of Satan.

G. Love is the heart of existence but it is twisted toward the self under the Old Covenant.

IV. The New Covenant described.

A. The qualifying resource is God.

B. Nothing comes from us—everything comes from Him.

C. The power is coming from God and not us. The obstacles that come along each day are designed to be met by the power that is coming from God.

D. The New Covenant is entered by faith in Christ.

Application questions:

1. What is the Old Covenant? What is the New Covenant?

2. How is the New Covenant the necessary means by which the believer functions in his new life?

3. What areas of your life have you been relying upon your own ability for success? How can this look differently in light of the message?
