

Authentic Christianity Part 4

Author

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Corinthians 3:12-4:6
- B. In the New Covenant, Christ has provided for us the will to do and act.
- C. We are bold because of the hope we have in the New Covenant.

II. The glory of the Old Covenant is fading.

- A. The fading glory comes in the problem of continuing to maintain a façade.
- B. Evangelicals have common veils such as false modesty.
- C. We are still living like Moses with a fading veil, and we are not bold.
- D. When we have acted in the flesh, we should not cover it up or justify it—acknowledge it openly and then look to the Lord for change.

III. In the New Covenant, you start with worth.

- A. You do not need to impress men or God—you can relax.
- B. When we are born again, the Spirit of God takes residence in our spirit.
- C. The soul of man is divided into different areas: family life, business life, sex life, recreation life, church life.
 - 1. There is a throne in each area of life.
 - 2. Christ begins to assert His Lordship after conversion in each area.
 - 3. When you operate in these areas, you are in the flesh—one must operate in the Spirit in every area.

IV. There is struggle walking in the New Covenant.

V. In the ministry of God's Word, we renounce disgraceful underhanded ways, practicing cunning and tampering with God's ways.

- A. Men need the truth, not pretense.
- B. Far too many pastors take the Word out of context or ignore portions for human appeal.
- C. The key issue of all is what you are counting on for success.

VI. The devil is at work veiling the gospel to nonbelievers.

- A. The devil veils before the nonbeliever hears the gospel.
- B. Instead, nonbelievers hold to the natural world.
- C. This demonstrates the importance of early training—that it would be a realistic system facing difficulties honestly.
- D. This also shows that we have a truly spiritual battle before us.

VII. The hope of the spiritually blinded.

- A. Paul shifts to the message that Jesus is Lord because the light from God comes out of the darkness of men's hearts.
- B. We do not lose heart because we have this kind of God.
- C. All seek godlikeness, but the only real answer is through the New Covenant—dependence upon God. (I Timothy)

Application questions:

1. What is the basis of the New Covenant as it works out in the lives of men?

2. How does God address the devil's attempts to blind the gospel?

3. How can you personally achieve godliness in light of the message? What areas specifically is this a need?
