

January 26, 2020

“Building Blocks for Life:
Adding to Your Spiritual Journey”

“Building Blocks:

Add A New Covenant” Core 16

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Jeremiah 31:33-34

A. Jeremiah gave the promise of God to the people...

“...I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people... For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

1. Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet. He suffered greatly for sharing the words God gave him, as well as deeply grieved for Israel.
2. Jeremiah is often compared to Jesus as Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem.

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let Me.” Matthew 23:37

3. Jeremiah predicted a New Covenant for the people of God and assured them of God’s promises.

“I have loved you, My people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love, I have drawn you to Myself.”

“You will again be happy. Tears of joy will stream down (your) faces, and I will lead (you) home with great care.”

“(You) will walk beside quiet streams and on smooth paths where (you) will not stumble. The Lord, who scattered his people, will gather (you) and watch over (you) as a shepherd does His flock.”

“I will turn (your) mourning into joy.”

“Your children will come back to you from the distant land of the enemy.”

“I turned away from God, but then I was sorry. I kicked myself for my stupidity! I was thoroughly ashamed of all I did in my younger days.”

“For I (God) have given rest to the weary and joy to the sorrowing.”

Jeremiah 31

B. The New Covenant...

“I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors...They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,’ says the LORD. ‘But this is the new covenant I will make...I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts.’” Jeremiah 31:31b-33a

1. In the New Covenant, everyone would know God personally without a mediator.

“So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.” Hebrews 4:16

2. In the New Covenant, our sins would be forgiven by the perfect sacrifice of Jesus.

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By His death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting Him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:19-22

3. In the New Covenant, every believer would have the internalization of God’s law, as it would be written on our hearts.

“Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

C. What does it mean for God to write on our hearts?

“I will put My instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people.” Jeremiah 31:33b

1. God’s ink will form a grateful heart. He loves us! And we love Him! We love Him, not out of fear, but out of love. We were chosen, not because we were good, but because of His grace.

“Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!” 2 Corinthians 9:15

2. God’s ink will form a repentant heart. In repentance, I want to turn away from sin. I need to fear it as it destroys. I have to develop a hatred for sin.

“But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:9

“Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.” Acts 3:19

3. God’s ink will form a new life and a new nature! This new nature desires to obey God’s Spirit.

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

4. God’s ink will form a heart with a thirst for more knowledge. The more we know, the more we see God, and the more we delight in Him.

“Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment,” 1 Peter 2:2

5. God’s ink will form a new heart with an increase in light that will shine in that heart. It will build a greater desire to live for God.

“So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:6-7

6. God’s ink will form a new heart that will want to talk with God daily.

“The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right, and His ears are open to their prayers. But the LORD turns His face against those who do evil.” 1 Peter 3:12

D. So, guard your heart!

“My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. Don’t lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” Proverbs 4:20-23

1. Recognize the treasure you have!

“And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.” Mark 12:30

2. Make it a priority in your life!

“Christ is also the head of the church, which is His body.

He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So He is first in everything.” Colossians 1:18

3. Minimize the trash in your life!

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.”
Hebrews 12:1-2a*

4. Energize your heart with truth!

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:32

“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.’” John 14:6

“I could have no greater joy than to hear that my children are following the truth.” 3 John 1:4

February 2: Core 17 – Building Blocks:

A New Understanding