

370 An eyeopener, my foot!

Last time, I got all excited and called it an eyeopener – covenant membership.^[369] Well, let's see when I mentioned 'covenant' before... Yes, here we are: I was all excited about 'covenant relationship' and saying almost exactly the same things *six years ago*.^[7,42] Argh!

But to be fair to myself, seeing it in black and white in NTFE does give it legitimacy – it's no longer just my idea. The thing is, it's so different from what we've always been taught about 'the gospel' (about me and how my sin can be forgiven and I can get to heaven), so we have to unlearn and relearn – and that takes time.

Tom Wright's translation, 'covenant membership' has helped me see the good news as: *Jesus has died, Jesus has risen, Jesus is King! His death cleanses us from sin to bring us back into God's covenant. We're adopted and receive a legacy: all the riches of Christ!*

So the good news is about God – it's about God's amazing long-term plan to bring everyone (all who are willing) into his kingdom of light and love and worship; and it's about how Jesus fulfilled that plan.

There were covenants before, but they were all imperfect, because God was having to work with what people in those times *thought* God was like. But the New Covenant, completed and ratified by Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension, is the perfect, once-for-all covenant, and it's based on what God is *really* like: it's based on Jesus. Brilliant!

I've no doubt my explanation of all this is flawed, but I believe we're heading in the right direction together. I think we're moving away from a humanly prescribed definition of the 'mechanism of salvation', and towards the mystery of Jesus' death cleansing us from sin and thereby drawing us back into God.

And while I'm rambling on, I think this vision of the glorious good news speaks strongly to people who are more sinned against than sinning – and we all know such people (we may *be* such people). Jesus' blood cleanses us from all sin – yes, ALL sin – including sin *done to us*. We are no longer soiled goods; we are washed clean. What a joy that is! Total release from all that has dragged some of us down for years. Hallelujah!

That's under 400 words(!), but I don't need to say any more – just rejoice in that amazing good news and praise God for all you're worth, because you're worth everything to God.

I think my next step has to be to soak up Romans 8-10 and Hebrews 9-10, as the main concentration of 'covenant membership' – so I never forget again.

Lord, let it be, for us all!

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