

## God's Covenant Requirements Do Not Fail Luke 16:14-18

### I. Covenant with God requires a pure heart (16:14-15).

The Law only deals with behavior, not with what is in the heart.

### II. The OT dispensation lasted up to John the Baptist and was replaced by the New Covenant (16:16).

<sup>31</sup> "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. <sup>33</sup> "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup> "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NASB)

### III. Nevertheless the Law's functions remain (16:17)

Four functions of the Old Testament Law:

1. To bring knowledge of sin- Romans 3:20; 7:7,13
2. To arouse sin in a person so they know it is present- Romans 5:20; 7:5,8,11
3. To tutor people in their need to be justified by faith in Christ- Galatians 3:24
4. To picture or foreshadow spiritual reality- Romans 3:21; Hebrews 10:1

IV. A specific example is the permanence of the marriage covenant established by the Law (16:18)

**<sup>24</sup>For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.** Genesis 2:24 (NASB)

**<sup>6</sup>"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."** Matthew 19:6 (NASB)

What breaks a marriage covenant in God's eyes?

1. Death- Romans 7:2-3
2. The formation of a new marriage covenant

**<sup>1</sup>"When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts *it* in her hand and sends her out from his house, <sup>2</sup>and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man's *wife*, <sup>3</sup>and if the latter husband turns against her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts *it* in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife, <sup>4</sup>*then* her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be his wife, since she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the Lord, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance.** Deuteronomy 24:1-4 (NASB)

**<sup>8</sup>For finding fault with them, He says, "BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE Lord, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH; <sup>9</sup>NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS ON THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS THE Lord. <sup>10</sup>"FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE Lord: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. <sup>11</sup>"AND THEY SHALL NOT TEACH EVERYONE HIS FELLOW CITIZEN, AND EVERYONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, 'KNOW THE Lord,' FOR ALL WILL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM. <sup>12</sup>"FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE." <sup>13</sup>When He said, "A new *covenant*," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.** Hebrews 8:8-13 (NASB)

V. Application

- A. When you enter into a relationship with God, you enter into a covenant.
- B. God is always as concerned with your heart as with your behavior.
- C. God takes seriously the promises and vows you make.