

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## What's New?

(Jerry Fite)

root word “KAINOS” which is “not new in time, recent, but new as to form or quality, of different nature from what is contrasted as old”.

Therefore, the new covenant is “new” in time when contrasted with the Law of Moses given 1500 years before. It is also “new” when compared to the first covenant in character. The first was ineffective in taking away our sins and issuing redemption. It became old giving way to the new and better covenant instituted by Christ through his sacrifice for sins (*cf. Hebrews 8:8-13*).

When a man becomes a Christian, he is “newly planted”. In reference to time he is a “novice” which translates the Greek word “NEOPHUTOS”. He is a “neo-phyte” (I Timothy 3:6). While the new babe in Christ has not had the time yet to be deeply rooted in Christ, and therefore is not yet qualified to lead the flock as an elder, he has started his new life focused upon producing spiritual fruit in God’s spiritual vineyard.

But Christians are also “new” in character. We are to “*put on the new man, that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth*” (*Ephesians 4:24*). This new man is contrasted from the old by character. The old man characterized by deceitful lusts and corruptness is contrasted with the new man characterized as living righteously and holy before God. The new man puts away such sins as fornication, anger, and shameful speaking. He honors the marriage relationship. Instead of making excuses, he learns to control his temper and tongue.

As disciples of Christ we glorify Him when we love as He loved us. Jesus said, “*A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; even as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another*” (*John 13:34-35*). This commandment is new in character because it is based upon the self-sacrificial example of Jesus. Is your love “self-sacrificial”? What is new with you?

When we read a newspaper we learn of the most recent happenings in our community. The day old newspaper is of not much use, unless you have a bird cage. In a news-paper, we want “news”. We are seeking what is “new”. What is new is often what is different. Novel things, not necessarily recent things attract our attention.

Newness in the Bible denotes both recent and different things. For example, the “*new covenant*” is both recent and different when compared to the Law of Moses. “*Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaketh better than that of Abel*” (*Hebrews 12:24*). Here, the Greek word translated “new” is the root word “NEO”. This word “signifies new in respect of time”. Jesus is also “*the mediator of a new covenant, that a death having taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, they that have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*” (*Hebrews 9:15*). The Greek word here for “new” is from the