

## The Covenanted Man

Jesus in the Psalms

Psalm 50

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### I. The Blood of the Covenant (Heb 10:26-31)

*Covenants* are the backbone of the Bible. A \_\_\_\_\_ is an exchange of oaths between two or more parties that establishes a binding relationship between them. *Covenants* entail both *privileges* and *responsibilities*: the parties enjoy a new relationship and are to be loyal to one another and to observe the terms of their *covenant*. *Covenants* demand \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_:

*26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.* (Heb 10:26–31)

*Antinomianism*, the notion that in Christ one can disregard God's moral law and yet be saved from God's judgment, has infected the American church. Such a concept is totally foreign to Scripture. As our Covenant Lord, God demands of us both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. The Covenanted Man (cf. 1 Chr 6:39-43; Psalms 73-83)

#### A. *The Summons to Court*: God the Righteous Judge (1-6)

- The Judge Described (1-3)
- The Witnesses Summoned (4 cf. Dt 4:26; 31:28; 32:1; Is 1:2)
- The Defendants Identified (5)
- The Judge Introduced (6)

#### B. *The First Indictment*: Formalistic Worship vs. Faith (7-15)

God charges certain of His *saints* with formalistic worship and directs them to turn from their dead formalism to living \_\_\_\_\_.

##### 1. God's Charge (7-13)

\_\_\_\_\_ does not need Israel's sacrifices; they need His grace and mercy. The sacrifices proclaimed the Israelites' need for \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ need for them.

##### 2. God's Directive (14-15)

God's covenant demands \_\_\_\_\_ – trusting God as our Savior and Deliverer, the One who will rescue us from our sin and our troubles so that we can praise Him.

### C. *The Second Indictment*: Hypocritical Worship vs. Obedience (16-23)

God charges others of His *saints* with hypocritical worship and contempt for His law (16-21) and warns them to flee from their wickedness lest He destroy them (22-23).

#### 1. God's Charge (16-21)

These wicked men mistook God's \_\_\_\_\_ for His *permission*.

#### 2. God's Warning (22-23)

It is the one who praises God (trusts Him) and obeys God that will witness the salvation of God. God's covenant with us summons us to faith and \_\_\_\_\_.

## III. Covenantal Principles

### A. God's Covenants Demand Faith and Obedience (1 Jn 1:8-9; 5:2-5)

First, God's covenant with His people includes both *privileges* and *responsibilities*. We have the *privilege* of being called by His Name, having access to Him in Word, prayer, and sacraments; we have the *responsibility* of looking to Him in *faith* and *obeying* His commandments.

In the *new covenant*, God claims us as His own in the waters of baptism. As in every *covenant*, He then calls us – by His grace, not by our own strength but by His gracious enablement – to *covenant faithfulness*. He calls us, in other words, to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### B. God's Covenants Include Unsaved People (Jude 3-4, 14-15)

Being in \_\_\_\_\_ with God is not synonymous with being *saved*. Even among God's *saints*, there are sometimes *wicked* men. Jude reminds us that God's *covenant* often includes wicked men; false teachers and false professors often make their way into the visible church.

<sup>3</sup> *Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.* <sup>4</sup> *For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Psalm 50, therefore, is a warning: do not think that just because you are in the church you are safe. If you are in *covenant* with God, this is an immense privilege. God calls you by His Name. But precisely because God is in the church, the church is not a safe space.

### C. God is Lord of His Covenants (Heb 10:31; 12:29; 2 Pet 2:9; Rev 3-4)

God is the Righteous Judge of His people. "*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*" (Heb 10:31). "...*our God is a consuming fire*" (Heb 12:29). God is the Judge of His *saints*.

## IV. Conclusion (cf. 1 Cor 11:29-32)