

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart...

Some have the attitude toward the Old Testament that we no longer need to read or study it as it has been taken out of the way. I've heard over the years that some think we need to disregard the Old Testament because it has passed away. That brings up a problem with the New Testament. "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (II Tim. 3:16-17) What do we learn about *all* Scripture? It's God inspired! There is profit in *all* Scripture. In fact *all* Scripture can teach us. The Old Testament shows us how God operates and feels toward certain things. *He hasn't changed one bit!* The covenant has changed but not God's attitudes and attributes. *All* Scripture can reprove, or convict an individual. *All* Scripture has the ability to correct, which means it can restore one to upright behavior and a right state of mind. *All* Scripture has the power to train in righteousness, to put one on the right road.

We aren't under the Old Covenant (Testament) for our salvation, as it has been removed (Heb. 8:13). We can gain great insight to God and point us in the right direction, with a right frame of mind. Paul reminded the Corinthian brethren, "Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." (I Cor. 10:11) Paul recognized all those Old Testament people were to be an example (good or bad) and they were written to instruct us!

Paul knew well we aren't under the Law of the Old Testament, but he points Timothy to this fact: "But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully." (I Tim. 1:8) The Law, speaking of the Law of Moses, is good if it is used in a lawful manner.

To say the Old Testament is passed away and little regard given to it is to ignore the Almighty, the God of our salvation. We need to use it for its proper purpose, never relinquishing it to something less than God's intended purpose. We live under the new covenant (testament) as it brings the whole together. We need to study and read the old covenant to help us see God for who He is. Just because the covenant has changed doesn't mean God has changed. He is still the same holy God, with awesome might and holds to the same standards of righteousness He has always declared. Maybe some need to reexamine their attitudes toward all the Holy Scriptures. Think about it!!!

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