

# “Covenant Keepers: God’s People Respond”

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – November 9, 2014

## Galatians 2:15-16, 20-21

15 "We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' 16 know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. 17-19... 20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

## CONTRACT:

- Generally made for specific period of time
- Motivated by desire to get something we want
- Based on “If ..., then ...” mentality

## COVENANT:

- Made as permanent commitment
- Motivated for the benefit of the other person
- Based on enduring, steadfast love

	<u>OLD COVENANT</u>	<u>NEW COVENANT</u>
Established by -	Animal <u>Sacrifices</u>	Christ’s <u>Sacrificial</u> Death
Sign of -	<u>Circumcision</u>	<u>Baptism</u>
Remembered by -	<u>Sprinkling of Blood</u>	Holy <u>Communion</u>
Justified by -	<u>Observing the Law</u>	<u>Faith in Christ</u>

The New Covenant is...

## 1. NOT DEPENDENT ON OUR GOODNESS, BUT ON CHRIST’S MERCY

### Galatians 2:16

... a man is not justified by observing the law...

### Ephesians 2:9

not by works, so that no one can boast.

The New Covenant is...

## 2. RECEIVED THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

### Galatians 2:16

... a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ

### Galatians 2:21

... if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

### Ephesians 2:8

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

The New Covenant is...

## 3. PROVED GENUINE BY ACTION

### James 2:18

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

The New Covenant...

## 4. GIVES US PERSONAL ACCESS TO GOD

### Hebrews 10:19-23

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.