

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 05/02/2023

Text(s): 2 Corinthians 2:14 – 3:18

Sermon Title: New Covenant

Preacher: Rev Collin See

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

2 Corinthians 2:14–3:18 (NLT)

14 But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume.

15 Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing.

16 To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this?

17 You see, we are not like the many hucksters who preach for personal profit. We preach the word of God with sincerity and with Christ's authority, knowing that God is watching us.

1 Are we beginning to praise ourselves again? Are we like others, who need to bring you letters of recommendation, or who ask you to write such letters on their behalf? Surely not!

2 The only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves. Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you.

3 Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This "letter" is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts.

4 We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ.

5 It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God.

6 He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.

7 The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading away.

8 Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life?

9 If the old way, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new way, which makes us right with God!

10 In fact, that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new way.

11 So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever!

12 Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold.

13 We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away.

14 But the people's minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ.

15 Yes, even today when they read Moses' writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand.

16 But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

17 For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

18 So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. During the Contemporary Service, the preacher and many others smelled a sweet fragrance that smelled like sweet incense, similar to the what they smelled in Israel. Anyone had a similar experience before, where God's presence came like a sweet-smelling incense?**
- 2. The preacher contrasted the Covenant of the Spirit and the Covenant of the Law. What are some of these differences and what do they mean for us today? How do we go about ministering to others now that we are all ministers of the New Covenant?**

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

- 1. Why do some in the church reject the New Covenant? Is preaching the Covenant of the Law easier than preaching the Covenant of the Spirit? If yes, why is that so?**
- 2. Those who *embrace* the New Covenant will experience results. Those who *preach* the New Covenant will experience results. Have you experienced something of the Spirit for yourself or witnessed others experience it? What kind of results can we expect when we minister under the New Covenant?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for monthly guide)

- Pray for one another to have the humility to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit in order to minister by the Covenant of the Spirit.
- Pray for our life groups and our church to reflect the glory of Christ more and more and to be given the grace to release His sweet-smelling fragrance.
- Pray for the MCS to continue to be strong and stable, able to meet needs in Singapore, and stand out as a true witness of Christ Jesus.