



**The New Covenant Gives Hope**  
**June 23, 2019**  
**Colossians 2:1-15**

*“And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross” (Colossians 2:13-14).*

The new covenant revealed in the New Testament includes Gentiles as well as Jews. The new covenant gives hope to everyone. In Paul’s Letter to the Colossians, he described the Gentile Christians as those who at one time were out of fellowship with God because they lived outside the old covenant, which was given to the Jews. They had not been circumcised—the sign of membership in the covenant. The law of God written on their conscience made legal demands; therefore, they knew they had failed to obey God’s laws and they deserved God’s just punishment. But through their newfound faith in Jesus Christ, Jesus made them spiritually alive with Him and welcomed them among God’s people. They were no longer slaves of sin and spiritually dead; rather, God had forgiven all their sins and freed them from fear of death. When Jesus was nailed to the cross and died, the punishment we deserve was also nailed to the cross—even though we were not yet God’s people. Therefore, by believing in Jesus Christ, God cancels our debt to Him—the punishment we deserve for our sins. Because Jesus Christ rose from the dead, by God’s grace many have heard the good news about Him and have believed in Him. Because Jesus reigns as Lord of heaven and earth, He sends His Spirit to indwell all who believe in Him, He adopts them into God’s family, and gives them eternal life.

1. What is the mystery of God, and where can we find all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2. Why can the Scriptures be trusted more than philosophy and human traditions?

3. How can the study of philosophy or human traditions be harmful? How can the study of philosophy or human traditions be helpful?

4. What are and how might the “elemental spirits of the universe” mislead someone or take someone captive?

5. What are some of the blessings from God that Christians can enjoy?