第四十五题　新约的事奉（叁）

The Service of the New Covenant (III)

贰　新约的事奉

II. The Service of the New Covenant

新约的事奉，都是根据新约的特点而有的。因为新约有那样的特点，所以新约就有这样的事奉。可以说新约的特点，就是新约事奉的特性。这也有五点：

The service of the new covenant is based entirely on the special characteristics of the new covenant. With each characteristic of the new covenant, there is a corresponding aspect of service. Consequently, the special characteristics of the new covenant are also the characteristics of the service of the new covenant.

一　不是照着规条乃是照着生命

A. Not Being according to Ordinances but according to Life

（一）‘不是照肉体的条例，乃是照无穷之生命的大能。’希伯来七章十六节。

1. “Not according to the law of a fleshy commandment but according to the power of an indestructible life” (Heb. 7:16).

因为新约的律法不是字句的，乃是生命的，所以新约的事奉也不是规条的，乃是生命的。字句的律法是死的，生命的律法是活的。照样，规条的事奉也是死的，生命的事奉也是活的。死的字句律法，怎样是旧约的，死的规条事奉也照样是旧约的。活的生命律法怎样是新约的，活的生命事奉也照样是新约的。所以我们在新约的事奉，必须是生命的，不能像旧约的事奉，乃是规条的。

The service of the new covenant is not related to ordinances but to life because the law of the new covenant is not according to letters but according to life. The law of letters is dead; the law of life is living. Service according to ordinances is dead, but service according to life is living. Both the law of letters and the service according to ordinances in the old covenant are dead. In contrast, both the law of life and the service according to life in the new covenant are living. Therefore, service in the new covenant has nothing in common with service in the old covenant.

规条的事奉，是照着一定的规条，是呆板的，是千篇一律的，是不用受引导的。生命的事事，是照着生命的感觉，是灵活的，是不能抄袭的，是必须受引导的。规条的事毫，不必倚靠神，不必和神有交通，只要能照着规条而作就可以了。生命的事奉就不然，必须倚靠神，必须和神有交通，必须活在生命的交通里才可以。

The service of ordinances is according to fixed ordinances. It is rigid and constant, and it does not require any leading. The service of life is according to the sense of life. It is flexible rather than systematic, and it requires the leading of the Lord. In the service of ordinances, there also is no need for fellowship with God; we need only to follow an established ordinance. But in the service of life, we must rely on God and fellowship with God in order to properly serve Him.

规条的事奉，因为是死的，所以是软弱的。生命的事奉，因为是活的，所以是刚强的。希伯来七章十六节这里说，主作新约的祭司，就是在新约里事奉神，不是照那软弱的规条，乃是照生命的大能，所以主的事奉就是刚强有大能的。主是我们的元首，祂的事奉既是如此，我们的事奉也当然是如此。我们今天也像主一样，不是照着软弱属死的规条，乃是照着刚强属生命的大能事奉神，所以我们的事奉也是刚强有大能的。

The service of ordinances is weak because it has no life. The service of life is strong because it is living. Hebrews 7:16 says that the Lord, as the Priest of the new covenant, is serving God in the new covenant. He does not serve according to weak ordinances but according to the power of an indestructible life. The Lord’s service is strong and powerful. The Lord is our Head. Since His service is powerful according to His indestructible life, our service should be the same. Today we do not serve God according to weak and dead ordinances but according to the power of an indestructible life. Therefore, our service also is strong and powerful.

二　不是凭着字句乃是凭着灵

B. Not Being of the Letter but Being of the Spirit

（一）‘不是凭着字句，乃是凭着灵’－‘在乎灵，不在乎字句’－‘按着灵的新样，不按着字句的旧样’。林后三章六节原文，罗马二章二十九节原文，七章六节原文。

1. “Not of the letter but of the Spirit”; “In spirit, not in letter”; “In newness of spirit and not in oldness of letter”(2 Cor. 3:6 ; Rom. 2:29 ; 7:6).

新约的事奉，既不是照着规条，乃是照着生命的，也就不是凭眷字句，乃是凭着灵的。因为规条就是字句，而生命是在于灵。不照规条事奉，就是不凭着字句事奉。照样，照着生命事奉，也就是凭着灵事奉。字句就是律法，不仅是死的，也是旧的。照样，灵就是生命，不仅是活的，也是新的。所以凭着字句的事奉怎样是死而旧的，凭着灵的事奉也怎样是活而新的。那种死而旧凭着字句的事奉，是旧约的事奉，这种活而新凭着灵的事奉，才是新约的事奉。

The service of the new covenant is not according to ordinances but according to life, and it is not of the letter but of the Spirit. Ordinances are of the letter, but life is of the Spirit. Not serving according to ordinances means not serving according to the letter. Serving according to life means serving according to the Spirit. The letter of the law is not only dead but also old. The Spirit of life is not only living but also new. Therefore, service according to the letter is dead and old, but service according to the Spirit is living and new. The service of the old covenant is dead and old because it is according to the letter, but the service of the new covenant is living and new because it is according to the Spirit.

旧约的事奉，一切都是照着写就的条例。那些写就的条例，都是字句的。人在旧约之下事奉神，只要照着那些写就的字句条例，就可以了。所以在旧约之下的事奉，乃是凭着字句的。那样凭着字句的事奉，不必有灵感，不必受引导，所以也不必与神有交通，因为一切都有已经写就的字句条例可凭了。

The service of the old covenant is based on written regulations, and these written regulations are the letter. Those who served God under the old covenant only had to follow written regulations in order for their service to be proper. Their service according to the letter required neither the inspiration of the Spirit nor the leading of God. Therefore, there was no need to fellowship with God, because everything could be done according to written regulations.

新约的事奉就不同了，因为新约的事奉，一切都是凭着灵。在新约之下，神要人事奉祂，并不是把一些写就的条例交给人，叫人去照着那些条例而作－像祂在旧约时所作的－乃是把祂的灵放在人的里面，叫人凭着祂的灵而行。所以我们在新约之下的事奉，都必须是凭着神的灵的，不该是凭着字句的。

The service of the new covenant is based on the living Spirit. God still wants man to serve Him under the new covenant, but He does not provide written regulations for man. Instead, He puts His Spirit into man and wants man to act according to His Spirit. Therefore, service under the new covenant must be according to the Spirit of God, not according to the letter.

凭着字句的事奉，就是照字句的成规而有的事奉，也就是死守成规的事奉。所以凡是固定的、按规的、抄袭的、照旧的，无论是祷告、是讲道、或是别种事奉，都是凭着字句的，所以都算不得新约的事奉。就是一切从前是出于灵感，是因着与神交通而有的，现在不必有灵感，不用与神交通，就能照样而有的事奉，也都是凭着字句的，所以也都算不得新约的事奉。任何陈旧、套文、仪式的事奉或工作，都是凭着字句的，都算不得新约的事奉。

Serving according to the letter means serving according to the regulations of the letter. Such service follows set regulations. In principle, anything that is done in a fixed way, according to rules, or is based on old practices, whether it involves prayer, preaching, or other kinds of service, will be a service that is according to letter. Such service cannot be counted as service in the new covenant. Even service that issues from the inspiration of the Spirit or is carried out in fellowship with God can become a service that is according to the letter if it is not continually carried out through the inspiration of the Spirit in fellowship with God. Any service or work that is old, formal, or ritualistic cannot be counted as new covenant service.

比方，有的基督教团体，他们作礼拜时，台上的祷告不过是读出印在祈祷书里的祷告文。他们在婚礼、丧礼这类礼拜中的祷告，也都是照读印在他们祈祷书里的成文。像那类的祷告，是十足的凭着字句而作的，所以算不得新约的事奉。有的人每日的祷告，虽然不是那样照着印就的祷告文而作的，但每天都是祷告那

么一套，也像背书差不多，所以也完全是凭字句而作的，也算不得新约的事奉。再比方，有的人讲道，不是固定的讲一定的题目，就是照抄别人的讲章而讲，或是自己前所讲过的，再照旧重讲。这一类的讲道，既然不是固定的，就是抄袭的，或是照旧的，所以也都是凭着字句的，也都算不得新约的事奉。

When some Christian groups worship, they read prayers that are printed in a prayer book. The prayers at their weddings, funerals, and other services all come from printed prayer books. These prayers are fully in the realm of the letter, and they cannot be considered as service in the new covenant. Some do not pray from prayer books, but they pray the same prayers every day. These prayers, which are recited like lessons, are completely according to the letter and cannot be considered as service in the new covenant. Similarly, when some preach, they use the same message or copy the words of others, often repeating their words in an old way. This type of preaching, which is set and old, is according to the letter and cannot be considered as service in the new covenant.

算得新约事奉的，必须是凭着灵的，必须是有灵感的，必须是受引导的，必须是因着与神交通而有的，必须是新而活的。这样的事奉，不是照着套文仪式，也没有陈旧死老的味道，乃是出于灵的运行，新鲜活泼，能叫人感到神的同在，碰着神的自己。我们的事奉，无论是祷告，是讲道，或是作别的事，都必须是这样的，才能算得新约的事奉。

Service in the new covenant must be based on the inspiration and leading of the Lord that comes out of fellowship with Him. It must be new and living. This kind of service is not according to set texts or rituals, nor does it have an old and dead flavor. It is from the operation of the Spirit; it is new and living. It causes people to feel the presence of God and to touch God Himself. Our service in both prayer and preaching must be in this way in order to be the new covenant service.

参读：圣经要道，第四十五题：新约的事奉

Reference: Crucial Truths in the Holy Scriptures, Vol. 4, Ch. 45 The Service of the New Covenant