

New Wineskins

In ancient times goatskins were used to hold wine. As fresh grape juice fermented, the wine would expand, and the new wineskin would stretch... but a used skin, already stretched, would break. The restoration of the first church is a new thing that necessitates a new wineskin, and cannot be confined within old forms. The old form of Judaism (which is only a type for Christianity) cannot hold the spiritual freshness of the true, comprehensive Gospel. Grace through faith cannot be served onto or poured into the system of legalism. Rather than patching up a brittle, worn out, and obsolete system, today's restoration requires a new wineskin. This reveals the parallel between Judaism and Christianity — both were worn out, obsolete systems. They were without the grace and faith of apostleship.

“But no one puts a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and a worse tear results. Nor do men put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.” (Mt 9:16-17)

There would be no need whatsoever for this account in Matthew if it were not for the purpose of us knowing what to do today. His newly imparted Spirit is the new wine, and He is looking for a container. He is looking for twelve containers (tribes) to form a whole (nation). Our Master Yahshua comes today to offer new life imparted by faith in Him.

Christianity lacks the vitality and elasticity to contain the Spirit of God. New wineskins would be able to stand the internal pressure resulting from the fermentation of the new wine. The wineskin of Judaism and the first church, now Christianity, soon lost their elasticity.

Heb 12:13 — Already in the early church were the hands which hung down and the feeble knees were not strengthened. They did not make straight paths for their feet, so the lame were dislocated and not healed. They were put out of joint rather than healed. They lost their holiness (Heb 12:14), their set-apartness to be God's holy set-apart nation. And when they all died no one saw the Sovereign (Mt 5:8). The pure in heart, set apart, holy (Heb 12:23), the church of the firstborn, who have the privileged position as heirs together with Messiah, the supreme Firstborn and heir of all things (Heb 1:2) no longer existed on earth, and none who lost or fell from their holiness went to heaven when they died. As Rev 3:4 says, none could walk with Him in white. Their names may have been written in heaven, but they did not live a life worthy of Messiah (Col 1:10). So they all were disciplined, waiting for the resurrection judgment (Rev 2:11). They were “hurt” by the second death.

Their condition and experience did not match their privileged position (Heb 12:23; Col 1:12) as the “Church of the Firstborn.” They all fell short of the grace of God (Heb 12:15). And all of the many were defiled. There was a bitter root. They were without grace. They could not walk in a manner worthy of Messiah as they were commanded to Col 1:10. Without grace they could not do those works in Eph 2:10; 4:12; 1 Pet 4:10-11. They fell short, they missed the proper portion that was divided and allotted to them all (Isa 53:12). They all sold their inheritance rights. They were the church of the firstborn (Heb 12:23) and they had a privileged position.

Col 1:12 — They were to be heirs of all things. Rev 3:4 — They had a reputation of being alive, but they were dead. They stained their garments, and, as Esau (Heb 12:16), for a single meal they sold out to the Evil One. They could not repent (Heb 12:17) for it was a sin unto death (1 Jn 5:16-17; Rev 2:11). Heb 12:25 — See to it that you do not refuse Him who speaks.

Since the first church had greater revelation, they had greater responsibility, and therefore greater danger (Heb 2:2-4). He spoke from heaven's throne by His Spirit in their hearts, since they were true sons of God (Heb 12:23). But the church of the firstborn died on earth. Only the overcomers went to heaven. Those who did not overcome went to death (Jn 8:51). Now they are seeing, or tasting death. Heb 12:15 — Most failed to lay hold of the grace of God. Heb 2:1-4 — There was a bitter root, pride, animosity, rivalry from living in the flesh without grace to fully please Him in every way (Col 1:10). So they ceased bearing fruit in every good deed and growing up into Him (Eph 4:12; Col 1:12; Heb 12:23,15,16).

Col 1:9 is what it takes to do verse 10, by verses 11-14, understanding Pr 2:1-22.

