

New Wine in New Bottles

1. Purpose of the Solemn Assembly

Daniel 9:3-19

2. Desire for a Mighty Change

Alma 3: 27-33, 48 - 54.

Galatians 4:9 - 11

3. New Wine in New Bottles

Matthew 9:2:23

Mark 2:20

Luke 5:37-39

Class Question: What are some thoughts about what 'new wine in new bottles' might mean for us today in this time under our present precarious circumstances?

From a discussion this week during a CRE council worship session pondering on our response to the spirit present at the solemn assembly as testified by the saints:

“Also as I pondered what brother Tom has brought to us, It occurs to me that Paul in Galatians 4:9 - 11, states a similar thought in that the Galatians should not spoil the new wine of the freedom of Christ by pouring it into unsuitable observances.

Tom,

I found it interesting that your comments centered on the Luke account of this passage. We find something in Luke that is not in the Matthew 9:23, and the Mark 2:20 accounts. These two accounts make the simple statement about new wine in old bottles.

Luke however adds something. Luke 5:37-39 adds on the thought found in Luke 5:39, *"No man also, having drunk old wine desireth new, for he saith, The old is better."* Notice that this line doesn't say that God saith, but that the man saith.

This added statement leads to further thought and discussion.

Expensive wine does, according to the experts of which I am not one, taste better with age. This would suggest that old wine, in old bottles is what should be sought after.

However, what is being referred to in these Scriptures is not only the wine, but the bottle or wineskin. This passage occurs as Jesus is talking with the Pharisees. When we partake of the wine during the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper what happens is the new wine (grape juice) does not enter into the same old body, but the new transformed body of one who has covenanted with the Lord. The old body (soul) is now a new creature and becomes a new body capable of holding the new wine (covenant between the person and the Lord).

Luke 5:37 states that the new wine in the old vessel (bottle) will perish, but states in Luke 5:38 that the new wine in the new vessel (bottle) will be preserved. This would be those who live in the new covenant that they have made with the Lord. The Lord will preserve those of the new covenant because they are His, and His promise to preserve is eternal to the faithful and obedient.

This principle has broad applications to our response to the Lord. It applies to the relationship of the Old Testament to the New Testament. It applies to our ever searching for the continuing, revelation of God as to how to live our lives. It suggests that we become the true and living church. Being 'true' is not as much about being *right*, but "being true to Jesus Christ". It is *through Him* that we become the 'living church'. The *living Christ* creates a *living church* to be the mirror image (and therefor a fitted 'bride') of (and for) Himself. *Seventy Richard Neil, 2020 [email discussion of several members of the CRE coordinating council]*

Class Question: What is in us (in you and me as covenant followers of Christ) this morning as we prepare to commune with our Heavenly Father and His Son that is 'new wine' and how can we seek to prepare and have ready 'new bottles' that will not break and spoil that which the Lord desires to fill us with?