

United Church of God *an International Association*

Robert Dick
Chairman

Clyde Kilough
President

Dear Brethren,

On behalf of everyone at the home office, as we near the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread I want to wish all of you a most uplifting and spiritually beneficial Holy Day season.

I am also extremely pleased to announce that each member household will soon receive in the mail your copy of our newest, and perhaps most significant, booklet ever, *The New Covenant: Does It Abolish God's Law?* At 176 pages, it is probably more accurate to call it a book! The printer completed the job the week of March 26 and we hope to have it shipped and mailed by April 6. Some of you have discovered that it is already posted on our Web site, and can be found at this link: <http://www.ucg.org/booklets/nc>.

A true understanding of the covenants is the heart and core of what distinguishes the Church of God from mainstream Christianity, and it was primarily on this doctrinal field of conviction that the United Church of God came into being in 1995. Our spiritual forefathers waged this same battle in times past, and we will face the challenge again, whether as individuals or as a Church body. This booklet will thoroughly equip you with the knowledge to strongly explain and defend your belief. I do not believe it is inaccurate to say that this booklet is probably the most detailed and comprehensive explanation of the covenants the Church has ever produced, certainly in modern times.

I hope everyone will devote serious study to this material in the coming weeks. We all need a regular review of this fundamental, but sometimes complex, issue. Many of our teens and young adults were too young in the early and mid-1990s to really comprehend the doctrinal struggle that took place, and this booklet will help to ground them in the faith.

Many people contributed to this production in many ways, but perhaps none more than one of our senior writers, Roger Foster. Mr. Foster wrote the following to me just a few days ago, and I thought you would find it very interesting.

“The research, writing and editing of our new book *The New Covenant: Does It Abolish God's Law* is the product of a collaborative effort that began shortly after the United Church of God was incorporated in 1995. Thousands of pages of research and analysis have been written and reviewed by many UCG ministers.

“One of the first priorities set by our Council of Elders was to accurately define those aspects of the biblical covenants that would impact the teachings of the Church and the preaching of the gospel to the world. A special committee was established to do research and make recommendations so the Council of Elders could produce an official statement of belief on divine covenants.

“When that task was completed, Scott Ashley, managing editor of booklets, assigned to me the task of organizing and producing the final text for a new publication on the New Covenant. The publication was to achieve two objectives: (1) offer a clear explanation of the purpose of the New Covenant and (2) thoroughly explain why the New Covenant does not abolish God’s law.

“The first objective was the easiest to achieve because Jeremiah 31:31-33 clearly explains the purpose of the New Covenant. But condensing meaningful and accurate rebuttals to the massive body of arguments against God’s law has consumed an enormous amount of time.


“The challenge can best be summarized in the old saying, ‘I apologize for writing such a long letter, but I didn’t have time to write a short one.’ Our decision was to *take the time* to be succinct—to get to the point—in rebutting incorrect explanations of New Testament passages relating to justification, salvation and God’s law so the book would be not only thorough but also readable and accessible.

“We knew that we would be unable to distribute a *free* full-length commentary on the writings of the New Testament. What we needed was a short book that would accurately counter arguments that the law of God is nullified by the New Covenant. We believe we have achieved that goal with this small book and hope that you find it enlightening.”

In this spiritually enlightening time of the year, as we humbly give thanks to God for the sacrifices He and Jesus Christ made for us, let’s add to our prayers a deep appreciation for His enlightening our understanding of the covenants.

Thank you as always for your prayers for one another and the work of the Church! Again, may God bless you by supplying all of your needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clyde Kilough". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clyde Kilough