



Mixed Signals



Darrell E Alexander

Mixed Signals



My wife and I lived next to a very busy main road in Lima Peru, and there was a very nice shopping mall and grocery store just across the street from our apartment. We would

often walk to those places and do our shopping, especially for our groceries, and of course there was a lot of traffic on this major road and at the intersection naturally there are traffic lights supposedly to manage the flow of traffic.

Well, as we were walking to the store one summer day, I noticed something that was a real problem. The traffic signals were changing from red to yellow to green and back again at all the crossings and at times both intersections were green at the same time. As you can image this caused quite a bit of confusion and anger and uncertainty about what to do and when and even walking was a challenge. This lasted for several days on and off again until the city workers could come and repair them.

when things that are important get mixed, the results can be devastating or at least cause things to be unproductive.

But after seeing this it made me think about how much confusion and discomfort it brought about by having these "mixed signals." People didn't know what to do. Some proceeded with caution, others just stopped and did nothing which caused a real back log of situations and then there were those who simply took matters in their own hands and did what seemed best for them. Tempers flared, horns blew and the potential for accidents and injury was high and an overall state of uncertainty due to a lack of clear direction prevailed. Why all this confusion? Because the signals had been mixed. And when things that are important get mixed, the results can be devastating or at the least cause things to be unproductive.

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The same is true in life, especially in the life of a follower of Christ Jesus. If we mix our message the results are about the same as the outcome of the traffic lights. Believers get confused and become unresponsive or angry and some just stop trying to do anything while others take matters in their own hands and do what seems best for them (religion, rules, do's & don'ts) and the result can be devastating.

While we have a clear message to bring, that message is Christ alone, it often gets cluttered by mixing the Old with the New and when that happens things begin to crumble. In talking about "A Better Covenant" Kenneth E Hagin wrote about mixture. I think it to be very insightful. Here is what he had to say:

We have carried many truths from the Old Testament into the New Testament, and have really failed to understand the full truth concerning our redemption and the reality of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Many people, for instance, mix the truth of the Old Covenant with the truths of our rights and privileges in Christ in the New Covenant. For example, if you are mixing cement and you don't get the mixture right, it won't work; the cement will crumble. That is what many people have done spiritually speaking. They have carried truths over from the Old Testament into the New Testament and have not understood their proper relationship with God in light of the New Covenant. They haven't gotten the mixture right. That's sometimes the reason the circumstances of their lives seem to crumble around them; they really missed what God is saying to them under the New Covenant and are still trying to live under the provisions of the Old Covenant. But under the New Covenant, we have a better covenant based on better promises.

— Kenneth E Hagin

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Hebrews 8:6 (KJV)

6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

(1) He has put into effect a better covenant with better promises. Everything about the New Covenant is better than the Old. So, why do "Christians" fight so hard to still be under the Old Covenant? There is no way these verses can be interpreted to say that Christians are still under the Old Testament and the New Testament at the same time. The bringing in of a better covenant totally nullified the O.T.

And I can think of another example of what happens when something is mixed. The result is enough to make you spew it out of your mouth. In

Revelation 3:15-16 (KJV)

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Now looking at these verses: if we look at these verses in the light of Old Covenant and New Covenant mixing, then I think they make more sense, at least they do to me and I also think they send a much clearer message than perhaps some of the things I've heard before. If we look at these verses we must admit that Jesus is saying (as it does in the NLT Bible), "I wish that you were one or the other!" Jesus really said that He would that the Church be Cold or that it be Hot because if you mix the two OT and NT or you could easily say Law and Grace then what you have is a crumbling lukewarm mixture of a message of what Jesus did on the cross.

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Understand this if a person were entirely under the Old Covenant of law (**cold**) it would lead a person to despair and into the saving grace of Jesus. Because the law reveals to us our sinfulness and our

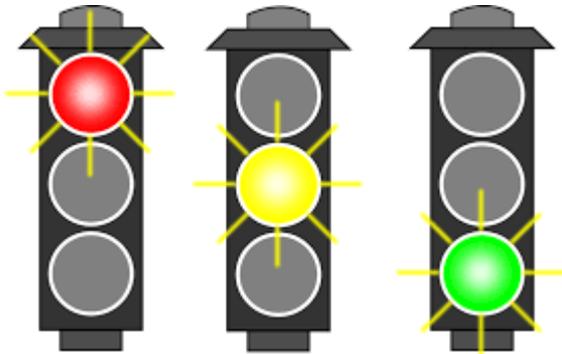
inability to keep the commands thereof and cause us to see our need for a savior.

We are saved by grace, and therefore entirely under the New Covenant of His grace (**Hot**). But if we continue to carry truths from the Old Testament into the New Testament, then we have really failed to understand the full truth concerning our redemption and the reality of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Therefore by mixing the two – believing in the covenant of grace and yet continuing to hold to the law – it neutralizes the convicting power of the law to bring a person to the end of themselves so one will cry out for the grace of the Savior.

This is why a person cannot be cold and be hot at the same time, or be both OT and NT at the same time. The moment one starts to teach a so-called 'balanced message' of both law and grace a mixed signal is sent and people don't know what to do and they are confused and the traffic light scenario happens. You see that message neutralizes both and each covenant is robbed of the effectiveness it can have in and on a life. Jesus said it best in the book of Mark chapter 2, you can't put new wine in old wine bottles because if you do you lose both.

"A wineskin stretched with the fermentation process. This only happened when the wineskin was new. Once it had been stretched, it became brittle, and to let wine ferment in it again would cause the skin to burst. Likewise, the Old Covenant Law cannot contain the New Covenant grace. There is a new way of relating to God." - Andrew Wommack Living Commentary

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So then let us who proclaim His wonderful Word do it with a clear message and with well understood signals, not being ashamed of this gospel and understanding that as the Apostle Paul so clearly put by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in Romans 1:16-17 (KJV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Remember...look to your future and not to the past, learn to live in the grace of God and love much, forgive always and hold no bitterness toward anyone

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About the Author



Rev Darrell Alexander is a 1988 graduate of Rhema Bible Training College in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma and is ordained with RMAI thru Rhema Bible Church. He is an alumnus of Lee College in Cleveland, Tennessee. He also studied "Kingdom Principles from the Life and Teachings of Jesus" under Dr. Brad Young, Ph. D., of ORU, through Life Discovery Bible Institute. Pastor Darrell is respected for his detailed expository teaching while bringing laughter with stories and insightful examples.

Through his years of ministry, Pastor Darrell has planted and pastored multiple new church works and has also preached and taught the word of God traveling extensively throughout the United States and South America, living and serving as a missionary in Lima, Peru and Cochabamba, Bolivia for many years with his wife, Donnia. Together they worked with local pastors, organized mission teams, ministered in many venues ranging from seminars to minister's breakfasts and teaching multiple courses in Bible colleges.

Bringing over 30 years of practical ministry insight and teaching to help local pastors in establishing their people in the unchanging Word of God with a heart to preach the Gospel 'for it is the power of God unto salvation' and sharing just what Jesus has provided through His finished work on the cross, Pastor Darrell often says' "Many have heard a lot of religion but few have heard the true Gospel of God's Grace and unconditional love".

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