What is the role of the Old Testament to us living in the New Testament times?

Recently a well respected Christian pastor of a large series of churches in the South East made some troubling statements in a sermon series aimed at those who have struggled accepting Christianity. He basically said that Christians today need to disconnect themselves from the Old Testament. He correctly pointed out the struggles the early church had in receiving Gentiles or non-Jews into the new faith called Christianity. There was debate (recorded for us in the book of Acts) at what these new believers were required to do. Perhaps the biggest question wrestled with was if circumcision was required of these Gentile believers. This pastor argued that Christians are not accountable to the 10 commandments, and that Jesus fulfilled the Law of God, thereby seemingly implying that the Law was no longer important for modern Christians. He also argued that because of the Old Testament, many have lost faith in God. His sermon brings to light how many Christians struggle in properly understanding the Old Testament. This article will briefly deal with some of the main issues surrounding this topic.

There is an error many believe regarding the Old Testament, in that it is only or primarily a list of God’s rules or Law. While the Old Testament does contain many rules and laws, and it is sometimes even referred to as “The Law and The Prophets” in the Bible, there is plenty of Gospel found throughout the Old Testament. The beauty of the Gospel is often shown in stark contrast to the sinful rebellion of God’s people. Another troubling heresy often accepted by Christians is the belief that “Old Testament” people were saved by following the law. This belief while held by many is completely and utterly false. Hebrews chapter 11, and Romans chapter 4 explains how the Old Testament saints were saved by faith in the promised Messiah, not by works. A key verse from this selection is Rom 4:13, “It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.” (NIV)

Others wrongly believe that God was different in the Old Testament times, and that we are lucky to have the God of today. This also is a completely false belief. Heb 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Malachi 3:6a explains, “I the Lord do not change.” (NIV). A clear attribute of God found throughout the Old and New Testament is that He is immutable, or unchanging.

The struggle of the early church with circumcision is understandable, because it was during this time that the old promise or old covenant of God’s which was circumcision was being replaced with a new promise, or new covenant which is the sacrament of baptism. God took a very strict view in His followers circumcising their boys. Moses was almost killed for failing to follow God’s law concerning circumcision (Ex 4:24-26). The question of Gentiles needing to be circumcised was a legitimate concern. The early church did not have the New Testament like we have. Slowly the letters of Paul were written to the early churches, as well as the writings of the other apostles. The letter to the church in Colossi helped to clarify the significance of baptism in replacing circumcision (Col 2:11-13), yet these early letters that make up the New Testament had yet to be distributed and read by the early church. This is in part why there was confusion.

I would argue that instead of seeking to “unhitch the Old Testament from our faith,” we should seek to better understand the Old Testament and how it applies to our faith today. The Old Testament is an important part of our Bibles that points sinners in the direction of the Messiah. It belongs in our Bibles, and in our faith.

[Signature]

Pastor [Name]
A little over a year ago this last March, we officially broke ground on the construction of our new church building. Since that time we have made significant progress. The construction process has been broken down into 5 phases. We have completed the first phase and are almost finished with the second phase. We have already even completed some parts of the third building phase. Our goal this summer is to have all of the building’s exterior complete (minus the front entrance way which isn’t scheduled to be completed until last) so it is ready for winter.

While the total cost for finishing the building’s exterior to prepare for winter will cost somewhere between $140,000-$190,000, there are some who have already made commitments to help fund some of this section of the building. While our general fund has a responsible savings account to protect against temporary giving fluctuations, at this time, our new construction fund has a balance of $12,000 in the account. It is truly amazing to see how God has provided for what we have currently built. We have been blessed with being able to complete all of our current work without incurring any debt! We have been amazed at seeing how God has blessed this work, not only through many financial gifts, but gifts of volunteer time, services, and even materials.

As we continue to look forward to completing the next phase of our 5 phase building project, it is important to review the reasons why we took this great step of faith in beginning the construction of our new building. In 1915 the original church was constructed. After multiple additions over the years we ended up with the church building we currently have. While the current building has served us well over the years, it has become obvious that major changes needed to be made.

In 2007 Mercer Engineering was contracted to examine our current building and give us a report on the status of our building with the possibility of expanding it. The report noted two glaring problems with our current structure. The roof framing system was noted as being obviously adequate to provide support for the current roof system, but he notes that what has allowed the roof to remain intact is, “…not known if this is by divine plan or just good fortune.” It is further noted that any changes made to the building would likely require a complete replacement of not just the roof, but the entire framing system holding the roof in place. Besides being structurally questionable, the massive water leaks when it rains that never seem to be repairable continue to wreak havoc on our current church building.

The second major issue is the original church foundation and walls. The report states that, “the south basement foundation wall cannot be considered structurally sound.” While the firm did not say an immediate collapse was imminent, it did note that any significant change in soil moisture, snow load, high winds, or other environmental factors could lead to enough stress to cause failure in the foundation or the roof.

Besides the structural issues with our current building we have many accessibility problems as well. Every entrance to the church is met with stairs. While we have a chair lift in the main entryway to the church, we do not have a chair lift to any floor that has a bathroom. For those with severe mobility issues, attending a worship service is near impossible. We also have an old inefficient building that has heating and cooling issues, as well as electrical shortfalls, and plumbing headaches. With our ever changing and growing population we need to be able to provide a safe, easy to access place to worship our Lord. In summary, building our new church on donated land, with generous gifts by many people has gotten us this far. To stay on track we will need to continue on the path set before us by many people. Will you prayerfully consider to continue to give toward this project through your prayers, and monetary gifts?
A Father’s Prayer
I pray my son shall have built-in wisdom,
An abiding faith sent down from God above.
I do not ask for wealth, but understand,
Let him be strong, and fill his heart with love.
I do not ask especially for a long life,
But that his time on earth may be worthwhile—
That he may kindle flames of hope and laughter,
And radiate true strength till life’s last mile.

FATHER AND SON
Be more than his dad, be a chum to the lad;
Be a part of his life, every hour of the day;
Find time to talk with him, take time to walk with him,
Share in his studies and share in his play;
Take him to places, to ball games and races,
Teach him the things that you want him to know;
Don’t live apart from him, don’t keep your heart from him,
Be his best comrade, he’s needing you so!

Never neglect him, though young, still respect him,
Hear his opinions, with patience and pride;
Show him his error, but be not a terror,
Grim-visaged and fearful, when he’s at your side.
Know all his playmates, it’s easy to learn to;
Be such a father that when troubles gather
You’ll be the first one for counsel, he’ll turn to.

You can inspire him with courage, and fire him
Hot with ambition for deeds that are good;
He’ll not betray you nor illy repay you
If you have taught him the things that you should.
Father and son must in all things be one—
Partners in trouble and comrades in joy.
More than a dad was the best pal you had;
Be such a chum as you knew, to your boy.

— Unknown

FISHERMAN’S PRAYER
Dear Father, give me the strength to fish for many years to come.
Help me to use good sportsmanship, and also to have fun.
And when the final cast is made, and the fishing pole laid down,
I’ll say “thank you” with a smile, Dear God, and never with a frown.
Please catch me in your landing net to take my final sleep;
And then, oh God may I be judged as big enough to keep.

— Pearl Nudge

MY DADDY PRAYS FOR ME
When Daddy prays, the house gets still,
His voice is slow and deep;
We shut our eyes, the clock ticks loud,
So quiet we must keep.
When Daddy prays, he doesn’t use
Those words the preacher does;
There’s different things for different days,
But mostly it’s for us.
He prays that we may be good boys
And later on good men;
We fellows squirm and think
We’ll have no quarrels again.

You’d never think, to look at Dad,
He once had tempers, too;
If Daddy needs to pray,
We youngsters surely do!
His prayer gets awful long
And hard to understand;
So I just wiggle up quite close
And let him hold my hand.
I can’t remember all of it,
I’m little yet, you see;
But one thing I cannot forget
My Daddy prays for me.

— Unknown

PLOWING FURROWS
I remember as a youngster
When my father said to me,
Looking backward down the furrow,
And then right down at me,
“Always plow as straight a furrow
As it’s possible to do;
Men will judge you by your plowing
When they think of hiring you.
If your furrow row is crooked
And you don’t plow deep and true,
They’ll know you’re not the worker
For the task they want to do.”
What a practical philosophy,
I suspect it can’t be beat.
Whether work or life or morals,
Let’s keep those furrows neat.
— R.W. Cooper

WALK A LITTLE PLAINER DADDY
Walk a little plainer daddy
Said a little boy so frail
I’m following in your footsteps
And I don’t want to fail.
Sometimes your steps are very plain
Sometimes they’re hard to see
So walk a little plainer daddy
For you are leading me.
I know that once you walked this way
Many years ago
And what you did along the way
I’d really like to know,
For sometimes when I’m tempted
I don’t know what to do
So walk a little plainer daddy
For I must follow you.

Someday when I’m grown up
You are like I want to be
Then I will have a little boy
Who will want to lead him right
And help him to be true
So walk a little plainer daddy
For we must follow you.

— Unknown
Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.
~ Psalm 33:12

America is much more than a geographical fact. It is a political and moral fact—the first community in which men set out in principle to institutionalize freedom, responsible government, and human equality. ~Adlai Stevenson

The winds that blow through the wide sky in these mountains, the winds that sweep from Canada to Mexico, from the Pacific to the Atlantic—have always blown on free men.
~Franklin D. Roosevelt

The United States is the only country with a known birthday. ~James G. Blaine

OLD GLORY
What do you see when you look at the flag
With its stripes like flowers blooming?
Is it far-flung fields, or turning wheels
Of a land with progress booming?
What do you hear when the oath is pledged
Like a giant chorus ringing?
Is it marching feet or the measured beat
Of each heart, free and singing?
What do you feel when a star is born,
Enriching the state of the Union?
Do you really care or whisper a prayer
That will join us in silent communion?
What do you think when you look at the flag?
Are the good seeds of freedom growing
From your church, from your door,
From the distant shore
Where your flag and mine is showing?
~ Alice L. Mason

PRAYER FOR THE NATION
Almighty God, Who has given us this good land for our heritage, we beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning and pure manners.
Save us from violence, discord and confusion; from pride and arrogance and iron every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought higher out of many kindreds and tongues.
Endow with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth.
In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in days of trouble, suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
~ Thomas Jefferson

Patriotism is remembering the past, respecting the present and preparing for the future.
Patriotism is not what you say, it’s what you do.
Patriotism is awe and wonder at what is and what can be.
Patriotism is a “can do” attitude.
Patriotism is taking part, not coping out.
Patriotism is duty and diligence.
Patriotism is an appreciation of peace and a willingness to defend it.
Don’t take freedom for granted! You may be in for a rude awakening someday!
Vacation Plans
I cannot take long leisurely vacations
In the green peace of some high mountain crest,
But I can give my often voiced vexations
A long-delayed and greatly needed rest.
I cannot take a trip to some far shore
But I can give complaints a holiday;
And little criticisms, by the score.
I’m packing up and sending far away.
The habits of being anxious and of doubting,
And making tart remarks that need amends,
I’m going to give a long and peaceful outing
All summer long; and when the summer ends
I shall be glad, indeed, if they should shirk
The woeful task of going back to work.
— Jane Merchant

Summer Fun
Vacation time is here at last,
And oh, what fun it will be
To quickly do the chores we must
And then know we are free
To ride our bikes or climb some trees,
Or play down by the creek,
And watch the frogs and polliwogs
As they play hide-and-seek.
Or maybe we should get our nets
And catch some butterflies.
I saw a lovely swallowtail
Just sail right past my eyes.
There’s ball to play and fish to catch
And hikes to go on too,
With picnic lunches in a sack
To eat neath skies of blue.
And then there must be time to dream
And watch clouds sail along;
And read good books about brave men
Whose faith was true and strong.
Summer is full of so many things
For boys like us to do,
So let’s enjoy each fun-filled day
Till school begins anew.
— Joyce Butler Miller

Time to go Fishing
Time to go fishing; to sit in a boat
Or wade in a stream,
To wear an old hat, an old shirt and not coat
And maybe dream.
Time to go fishing; away from the town,
Its stress and its strain,
To depart from the shore, every burden put down
And be humble again.
Time to fishing; pride’s vestments to leave
On a hook or a shelf,
To drop all the shams that so often deceive
And just be yourself.
Time to go fishing; no matter the spot
Or sunshine or rain,
And return to the town, whether lucky or not,
To brave life again.
— Edgar A. Guest

Vacation
Vacation is a lovely word...
It spells so many days of fun,
Or basking in the summer sun;
A hike within the sheltered wood
And over paths both old and new,
A dip in a cool refreshing lake,
A picnic lunch laid out for two.

Vacation is a time for change...
We leave our home, though very dear,
And hurry off to strange new haunts
This happy season of the year.

We eat new food and view new scenes,
And every night a different bed
Brings rest to play-worn, happy souls
As soon as evening prayers are said.

Vacation is a happy dream...
Well worth the price we have to pay,
From starting point to very end,
Each minute of the carefree day.
We say good-bye to friends we’ve met,
And even as we pack our gear
And look with eager hearts toward home,
We’re planning for our trip next year!
— Eleanor Lyons Culver
## JUNE ZION 2018 ACTIVITIES

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## JUNE 2018 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td></td>
<td>&quot;We do not remember days but moments. Life moves too fast, so enjoy your precious moments.&quot;</td>
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<td>Paul &amp; Karmen Eraas</td>
<td>Pastor Rodger &amp; Haiane Olson</td>
<td>Curtis Miller</td>
<td>David Pederson</td>
<td>Jen Howard</td>
<td>Chris Pederson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Melissa Ramberg</td>
<td>JoAnn Becker</td>
<td>Patty Jensen</td>
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<td>Brenda Kutter</td>
<td>Tyler &amp; Meghan Lalim</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Tanner Skalicky</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Dalton Knudson</td>
<td>Duane Knudson</td>
<td>Kirk &amp; Judy Odegaard</td>
<td>Earl Syverson</td>
<td>Fran Stewart</td>
<td>Dwight &amp; Kay Blikre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Connie Seibel</td>
<td>Bobbie Jo Kucera</td>
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<td>Jerome &amp; Ardis Rice</td>
<td>Linda Fifer</td>
<td>Grace Melberg</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marlene Peterson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Susan Wolla</td>
<td>Delaney Moore</td>
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# JULY 2018 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Don &amp; Darlene Hahn Rosemary Sundhagen</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 Kim Overdorf Roger Blestrud</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6 Bridgette Odegaard Mitchell Fifer Kelly Mattern</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Don Hahn Karmen Eraas</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Selmer Myren Celina Nielsen Rikki &amp; Sarah Rice</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 Rhonda Rehak Steven &amp; Corrie Dinolfo</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Roger &amp; Georgia Blestrud Lila Perzinski</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 Juli Christoffersson Timothy Larson</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Lovera Dosch</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Alex Anderson Laken Martinson Amaleah Raan Barry &amp; Melissa Ramberg</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>&quot;Before you were born, you existed in the mind of God. He decided that the world needed you at a certain time, that there is something for you to do that is different from what any other person will do.”</td>
<td>31 &quot;For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>9 am Adult Sunday School &amp; Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service</td>
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<td>7 pm Deacon/Deaconess Meeting 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting 8 pm Church Council Meeting</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>7:15 pm Youth Group</td>
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<td>7:15 pm Youth Group</td>
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<td>15 Building Project Sunday 9 am Adult Sunday School &amp; Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>2 pm Ladies WMF 7:15 pm Youth Group</td>
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<td>60th Wedding Anniversary Open House for Don &amp; Darlean Hahn Consulting 12 – 3 p.m.</td>
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<td>22 Building Project Sunday 9 am Adult Sunday School &amp; Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service</td>
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<td>7:15 pm Youth Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Building Project Sunday 9 am Adult Sunday School &amp; Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>Aug. 2</td>
<td>Aug. 3</td>
<td>VBSI 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VBS Starts! 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>VBSI 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</td>
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RADIO MINISTRY
Anyone who would like to sponsor a Sunday broadcast or contribute to the radio fund in memory of a loved one, please contact the church office, thank you! The radio broadcast is $100 per Sunday. Our radio broadcast can be heard on Sundays at noon on AM Radio Station KTGO 1090.

Our church service is on the local NCC TV Station channel 17 on Thursdays, noon and 8 p.m.

USHERS THIS MONTH
JUNE HEAD USHER: Ronnie Lund
Helpers: Bill Oxner, Lee Olson
JULY HEAD USHER: Wayne Grindy
Helpers: Lorin Weisz

~Special Offering Baskets~
FIRST SUNDAY of each month is Mission Sunday.
THIRD SUNDAY of each month is New Building Project. We will have a basket in the back of the church on these two Sundays for special offering.

*If your birthday or anniversary is missing from our Newsletter and you would like to be included, please call the church office*

CLOTHES CLOSET
OUR CLOTHES CLOSET IS OPEN! HOURS TO SHOP ARE:
MONDAY 4-7 P.M. & SATURDAY 9-12 P.M.
IF YOU HAVE NEW OR GENTLY USED CLOTHES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE (PREFERENCES THAT GO WITH THE SEASON WE ARE IN) PLEASE DROP THEM OFF AT THE CHURCH. THANK YOU!
VOLUNTEER HELP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED!

~Kids of the Kingdom Playgroup~
For: Preschool age children.
Meets September thru May. For more information please call Laurie Rieniets at 664-2034.

It’s Summer!

~LOOKING AHEAD~

AFLC Annual Conference
June 12 - 15, 2018 - Dickinson, ND
Held at the Ramada Grand Dakota Lodge
Theme: ~That You May Know~ 1 John 5:13

WMF Day - Tuesday, June 12 at 9 a.m., MT
Tuesday, June 12 - 7 p.m. Opening Conference & Ordination Service
Wednesday, June 13 - 9 a.m. Conference Sessions
7 p.m. Mission Festival Service
Thursday, June 14 - 9 a.m. Conference Sessions
7 p.m. Layman’s Service
Friday, June 15 - 9 a.m. Conference Sessions
7 p.m. Closing Service with Communion at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, Dickinson, ND

~You Are Invited to Vacation Bible School!~

When: July 30th – August 3rd
Time: 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Theme: "Shipwrecked; Rescued by Jesus"

Have a fun and safe summer!