

I. Read Luke 16:16-17

- A. What is the significance of the reference to John in verse 16? (see Matthew 3:1-3)

- B. How does Matthew 5:17-18 further explain the concept of a progressively unfolding revelation in Scripture?

- C. Were believers saved differently during the Old Testament administration of the Covenant of Grace than they are during the time of the New Testament?

II. Luke 16:18

- A. There is perhaps no more serious matter in this world for a Christian than the consideration of marriage and divorce. In verse 18, Jesus is responding to the sinfulness of a culture that allowed men to divorce their wives easily. In our day, divorce for slight cause has also become common. Jesus alludes to God's higher purposes in marriage by warning those who opt for divorce of the gravity and seriousness of such a decision. The basis for His warning was the Father's view of marriage. It is as follows:

"Marriage is an exclusive relationship in which a man and a woman commit themselves to each other in covenant for life, and on the basis of this solemn vow become one flesh! (Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:14; Matthew 19:4-6)...God's ideal for marriage is that the men and the women should complete each other (Genesis 2:23) and share in the creative work of making new people." (New Geneva Study Bible).

- B. There are two fundamental truths concerning marriage and divorce that many had forgotten in Jesus' day. This is true in our day as well. What are they? (see Genesis 2:24 and Malachi 2:16)

C. The Bible does allow divorce in at least two instances. Read Matthew 5:32, 19:9; 1 Corinth. 7:15.

1. What are they?

2. Why do you suppose Luke does not mention these “exceptions” in Luke 16:18?