

## **The Shadow and the Substance**

*Scripture reading:* Hebrews 10:1

God wrote things in the Bible for the Jews. He talked to them and He showed them life. He made certain promises to them, everlasting promises. Now, let me ask you: can you make an everlasting promise to a person or a thing that is not everlasting? How would you like that? My mother used to say, “It is like a side pocket to a dog.” Give dog two beautiful side pockets - he has no hands. God would not make an everlasting promise to a people who were not everlasting!

For a long time, we could not differentiate between what the Old Testament and the New Testament were saying. But God did something. He sent a man named Paul, and that man studied. He was a doctor of Old Testament law. He knew all about the law. Then all of a sudden, God knocked him down on the road to Damascus while he was going to persecute Christians, and took him unto Himself. He went fourteen years out into the desert to understand what God was doing. He didn’t just jump up and start preaching. Fourteen years; and after the fourteen years, he came to teach the Church what God had been saying in the Old Testament as against the New.

Now, the Old Testament is what we call the “*shadow*.” You cannot have a shadow unless you have a substance. You must have light, you must have substance and then it casts a shadow. So therefore, the shadow is there, the substance is here, and the light is here. If you come towards the substance, when you meet the substance, then you don’t have to look at the shadow again. But if you cannot understand the substance, you will look at the shadow and you will see an arm sticking out. You will say, “He has an arm,” and you will know exactly where the arm is because that is where the shadow is.

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*Thought for today:* If you don’t understand the substance of life in Christ, look at the shadows in the Old Testament and you will be able to see it.