

**GOD HAS A PLAN FOR
EVERY PART OF YOUR LIFE**

(Our God is a Covenant God)

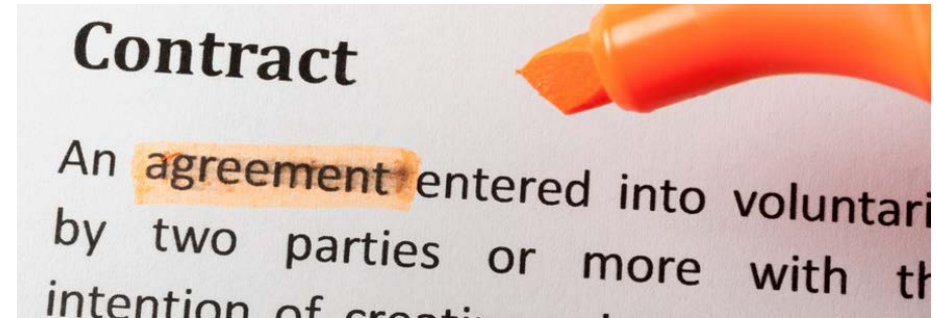




THE COVENANT OF GRACE

Week 3

REVIEW:



- ***What is a covenant?***
 - An Agreement or contract
 - A Relationship
 - More than a promise
 - An Oath-Bound Promise
 - *“A bond in blood sovereignly administered”*



REVIEW: ELEMENTS

- *What are the **elements** of a covenant?*
 1. Parties
 2. Condition
 3. Promise or Blessing
 4. Penalty or Curse



REVIEW: COVENANT OF WORKS

- *How do we know that it is a covenant?*
 - We DO NOT just look for the word “covenant” in a concordance
 - We look to the **substance** of what is going on
 - We look for the **ELEMENTS**



REVIEW: COVENANT OF WORKS

1. God and Adam – *Adam represents all men*
2. Obedience – *Perfect, personal obedience*
3. Eternal Life – *Communion with God forever*
4. Death – *Spiritual, physical, judicial*



REVIEW: COVENANT OF WORKS

How can we call the Covenant of Works gracious?

- God gave Adam two things that He was not previously obligated to:
 - ✓ **Right** to the promise, upon fulfilling the condition
 - ✓ **Relationship** with Himself



REVIEW: COVENANT OF WORKS

- By His breach, Adam fell into an estate of:
 - Sin
 - Misery





THE COVENANT OF GRACE

God's Second Covenant

THE COVENANT OF GRACE

What is the reason for the Covenant of Grace?

It all really depends on your *perspective*



THE COVENANT OF GRACE

- Do we look at it from God's eternal perspective?
- Do we look at it from man's in time perspective?



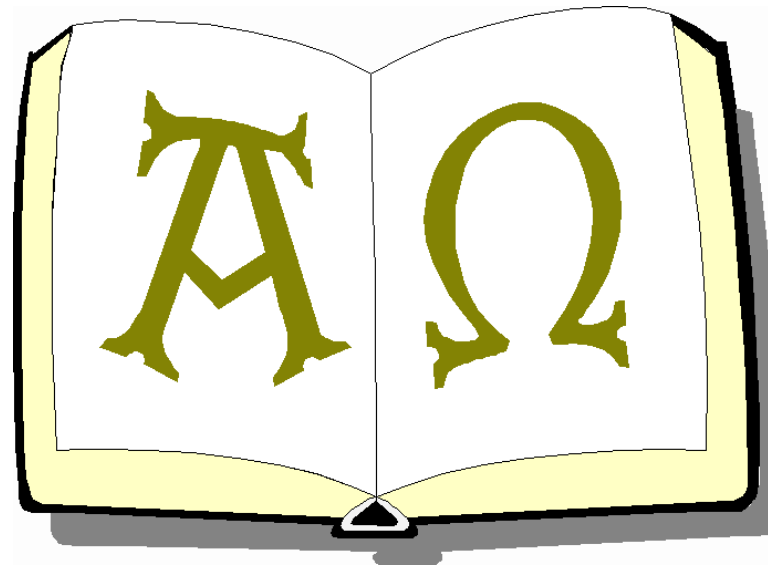


ETERNAL ASPECT

Covenant of Redemption

COVENANT OF GRACE: ETERNAL

- The Eternal decree of God



COVENANT OF GRACE: ETERNAL

- *“the Lord was pleased to make a second [covenant], commonly called the Covenant of Grace” (WCF 7.4)*
- *“God having out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace” (WSC 20)*



COVENANT OF REDEMPTION

- “Though sin has abounded, grace has much more abounded. Yes: in the everlasting covenant of redemption, to which Father, Son and Holy Spirit are parties; in the Mediator of that covenant, Jesus Christ the righteous, perfect God and perfect Man in one Person; in the work that He did by dying for our sins and rising again for our justification..” (J.C. Ryle, *Holiness: It's Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties and Roots*)



COVENANT OF REDEMPTION

- God, in election, reveals His own Triune covenant life
- It is the basis for the establishment and realization of a covenant outside of Himself with man in the way of sin and grace, death and redemption
- It is to the glory of the Lord's holy name



COVENANT OF REDEMPTION

What's in a name?

- In emphasizing the relationship in the Trinity, it has been called:
 - The Counsel of Peace
- In emphasizing its effect on man, it has been called:
 - The Counsel of Salvation



COVENANT OF REDEMPTION

- And say to him, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.'" (Zechariah 6:12-13)



But...



OK...

We heard
about God's
election...

how do we
know it
happens in a
covenant?



OUR OLD FRIENDS!

1. Parties
2. Condition
3. Promise
4. Threat or Curse

We look for the elements of a covenant!



PARTIES: GOD THE FATHER

- Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, **promised before the ages began** (Titus 1.1-2)



PARTIES: GOD THE SON

- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...even as **he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ**, according to the purpose of his will (Ephesians 1.3-5)
- Also Ephesians 3:8-12; 2 Timothy 1:8-10



PARTIES: TRINITY

- Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to **the foreknowledge of God the Father**, in the **sanctification of the Spirit**, for **obedience to Jesus Christ** and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (1 Peter 1:1-2)



CONDITIONS

Son assume
human nature

- Gal. 4:4-5
- Heb. 2:10-15
- Heb. 4:15

Son perfectly
obey the Law of
God

- John 4:34; 5:30
- John 5:30
- John 6:38
- Psalm 40:8

Son make
atonement for
sin

- 2 Cor. 5:21
- Ephesians 5:2
- John 10:11



PROMISES

- Assist the Son
 - Isaiah 42:4-6; Isaiah 50:5-9; Psalm 16:10-11
- Give the Son a people
 - John 6:44-45; John 17:1-12
- Exalt the Son
 - Isaiah 53:12; Zechariah 9:10; Psalm 2:7; 110:4; Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:10



PROMISES

- Assist the Son in the work of atonement
 - Isaiah 42:4-6
 - Isaiah 50:5-9
 - Psalm 16:10-11
- “I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations.”
(Isaiah 42:6)



PROMISES

- Give the Son a people, and keep them safe for all eternity
 - John 6:44-45
 - John 17:1-12

- No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.
(John 6:44)



PROMISES

- Exalt the Son above all others
 - Isaiah 53:12
 - Zechariah 9:10
 - Psalm 2:7; 110:4
 - Romans 14:11
 - Philippians 2:10
- His rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. (Zechariah 9:10)
- “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” (Romans 14:11)





IN TIME ASPECT

Covenant of Grace

COVENANT OF GRACE: IN TIME



- Resolving in time the problem created by the Fall



COVENANT OF GRACE: IN TIME

- ***“Man by his fall having made himself incapable of life by that covenant”***
(WCF 7.4)
- ***“to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer”***
(WSC 20)



PARTIES: GOD THE FATHER

- For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
(Hebrews 8:10)



PARTIES: GOD THE SON

- Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ. (Galatians 3:16)
- This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. (Heb. 7:22)

**Jesus is our
representative!**



PROMISES: GENERALLY

- *“I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” (Hebrews 8:10)*
- *And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. (Acts 13:48)*



PROMISES: GENERALLY

- A New Heart and Life
- *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezekiel 36:26-27)*



PROMISES: SPECIFICALLY

- Forgiveness of Sins
 - Sanctification
 - Illumination
- Hebrews 8:10-12



CONDITION: FAITH IN CHRIST

- *The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. (Revelation 22:17)*
- *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*



CONDITION: FAITH IN CHRIST

- Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (**Romans 10:9**)
- Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. (**Colossians 2:12**)



CONDITION: ANOTHER'S OBEDIENCE

- For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
(**Romans 10:4**)
- Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
(Matthew 5:17)





SUMMARY



COVENANT OF GRACE

- This Covenant is *one covenant*, throughout the entire Bible.
- Next week we will see this in the **Old Testament**
- The following week we will see this in the **New Testament**



All mankind outside of Christ continues to be under the Covenant of Works. God demands perfect obedience from man in order to earn eternal life.

Mankind Outside of Christ

Covenant of Redemption

(Hebrews 10:7-10;
Zechariah 6:13)

The Covenant of Redemption is made in eternity between the Father and the Son.

Covenant of Works

(Genesis 2:17;
Romans 10:5;
Galatians 3:10-12)

The essence of the covenant of works is “do this and you shall live.”

Covenant of Grace

(Rom. 3:20-21;
Rom. 10:8-11;
Gal 3:11)

In the Covenant of Grace, the Father agrees to accept the works of the Son as fulfilling the Covenant of Works for the elect.



APPLICATION: KNOWLEDGE

- See the amazing goodness of God, to enter into covenant with us; He did not enter into covenant with the fallen angels
- See how great God's love is, to love us when we were enemies



APPLICATION: EXAMINATION

- God's covenant people are a **humble** people (1 Peter 5:5; Phil. 2:3)
- God's covenant people are a **willing** people; although they cannot serve Him perfectly, they serve Him willingly (Ps. 110:3)
- God's covenant people are a **consecrated** people, they have holiness written on them (1 Peter 1:16)



APPLICATION: EXHORTATION

- If you are out of the covenant, labor to be found in the covenant. Consider:
 - the misery of those living and dying outside the covenant (1 Sam 28:15)
 - how excellent a covenant this is, more gracious and friendly than the first-- since the works of another are counted as ours, it is surer and has better privileges.

