

Discipleship:  
An  
Introduction to  
Systematic Theology and  
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption:

The Heights Church December 11, 2016

## The Covenants – The Covenant of Works (Review)

- **In some ways the Covenant of Works is still in effect.**
  1. **If anyone could perfectly obey all of God's laws they would have eternal life.**
  2. **The punishment (death) for breaking the covenant is still in effect.**
- **In some ways the Covenant of works is not in effect today.**
  1. **There is no tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**
  2. **Since every person has inherited a sinful nature it is not possible for anyone to obey the Covenant of Works.**
  3. **Christ has fulfilled the Covenant of Works once for all so Christians are freed from the Covenant of Works and credited with the benefits of Christ's obedience.**

# The Covenants – The Covenant(s) of Grace

- **There are five Covenants of Grace.**
  - 1. The covenant with Noah**
  - 2. The covenant with Abraham**
  - 3. The covenant with Moses**
  - 4. The covenant with David**
  - 5. The New Covenant**

## The Covenants – The Covenant(s) of Grace

- **After the Fall the rest of Scripture is dominated by God revealing his plan of redemption through the Covenant(s) of Grace culminating in the New Covenant.**
- **There are variations in the Covenant(s) of Grace but the essential features are:**
  - 1. The covenant is between God and the people he will redeem.**
  - 2. God specifies the terms.**
  - 3. Christ is the mediator in which he fulfills the conditions of the covenant for us.**

**Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. (Hebrews 9:15)**

## The Covenants – The Covenant(s) of Grace

- 4. The requirement for humans to participate in the New Covenant is faith in Christ.** whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his **divine forbearance** he had **passed over former sins**. It was to show his **righteousness at the present time**, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:25-26)
- 5. The requirement to continue in the New Covenant is obedience to God's commands though this obedience is not in the OT and earns no merit in the NT.** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (James 2:17)

## The Covenants – The Covenant(s) of Grace

- 6. The promise of the New Covenant is eternal life with God.**
- 7. The sign of inclusion in the covenant is circumcision in the OT and baptism in the NT.**
- 8. The sign of continuing in the New Covenant was to observe the festivals and ceremonial laws in the OT and participate in the Lord's Supper in the NT.**
- 9. The covenant of grace is dependent only on God's unmerited favor towards the redeemed. On the other hand the covenant of Works was a Covenant of grace in the sense that God showed his unmerited favor towards Adam and Eve to make any covenant with them.**
- 10. The Covenants of Grace do not merely restore us to the status of Adam and Eve before the Fall but promotes us to the status they would had by obeying perfectly the Covenant of Works.**

## The Covenants – What does it mean to Walk with God/Christ?

When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. **Enoch walked with God** after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. (Genesis 5:21-23)

These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. **Noah walked with God.** (Genesis 6:9)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; **walk before me, and be blameless,** that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” (Genesis 17:1-2)

## The Covenants – What does it mean to Walk with God/Christ?

**You shall be careful therefore to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. **You shall walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.**** (Deuteronomy 5:32-33)

**Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, **to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.****” (Joshua 22:5)

**Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me **as you have walked before me.**’ Now therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David my father. (1 Kings 8:25-26)**

## The Covenants – What does it mean to Walk with God/Christ?

**But Jehu was not careful to walk in the law of the LORD, the God of Israel, with all his heart. He did not turn from the sins of Jeroboam, which he made Israel to sin. (2 Kings 10:31)**

**But this command I gave them: ‘Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’ (Jeremiah 7:23)**

**And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (Ezekiel 11:19-20)**

**Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them. (Hosea 14:9)**

## The Covenants – What does it mean to Walk with God/Christ?

**He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?** (Micah 6:8)

**“Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here.** (Zechariah 3:7)

**Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.** (Psalm 1:1-2)

## The Covenants – What does it mean to Walk with God/Christ?

He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but **who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.** (Romans 4:11-12)

**But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.** (Galatians 5:16 ESV)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that **we should walk in them.** (Ephesians 2:10)

## The Covenants – What does it mean to Walk with God/Christ?

for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light** (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:8-10)

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:9-14)

## The Covenants – What does it mean to Walk with God/Christ?

Therefore, **as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,** rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7)

If we say we have fellowship with him while **we walk in darkness,** we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we **walk in the light,** as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:6-7)

By this we may know that we are in him: **whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.** (1 John 2:5-6)

**And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.** (2 John 1:6)

## The Covenants – What does it mean to Walk with God/Christ?

- 1. Walking begins with receiving Christ**
- 2. Walking involves intimacy with God/Christ.**
- 3. Walking is more than enjoying favor with God or being in fellowship with him but includes personal obedience and teaching obedience to others.**
- 4. Walking is not simply rule keeping but it is not without rule keeping and extends to a matter of the heart.**
- 5. As Christians we walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16) but are saved by grace as evidenced by good works that do not earn salvation. (Ephesians 2:8-10).**
- 6. Walking leads to being mature in Christ by walking as Jesus walked in love.**