

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption:

The Heights Church October 30, 2016

Reformation Sunday

- On 31 October 1517, Martin Luther wrote to Albrecht, Archbishop of Mainz and Magdeburg, protesting against the sale of indulgences. He enclosed in his letter a copy of his "Disputation of Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences," which came to be known as The 95 Theses.
- According to Philipp Melanchthon, writing in 1546, Luther "wrote theses on indulgences and posted them on the church of All Saints on 31 October 1517", an event now seen as sparking the Protestant Reformation.
- **Reformation Day** is a religious holiday celebrated on October 31, in remembrance of the Reformation. It is celebrated among various Protestants, especially by Lutheran and Reformed church communities.
- In the United States churches often transfer the holiday, so that it falls on the Sunday (called **Reformation Sunday**) on or before October 31, with All Saints' Day moved to the Sunday on or after November 1.

Reformation Sunday

- It is a civic holiday in several German states.
- Slovenia celebrates it as well due to the contribution of the Reformation to that nation's cultural development, although Slovenes are mainly Roman Catholics.
- It was declared a national holiday in Chile in 2009.

Halloween

- **Halloween** or **Hallowe'en** (a contraction of All Hallows' Evening), also known as **Allhalloween**, **All Hallows' Eve**, or **All Saints' Eve**, is a celebration observed in a number of countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It begins the three-day observance of **Allhallowtide**, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed.
- It is widely believed that many Halloween traditions originated from Celtic harvest festivals and that this festival was Christianized as Halloween. **Some academics, however, support the view that Halloween began independently as a solely Christian holiday.**

Redemptive History/Doctrines of Redemption Syllabus

- The Fall
- **The Covenants**
- The Law
- The Old Testament Sacrificial System

The Old Testament Era (BC)

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- Jesus the God-Man
 - The Work of the Holy Spirit
 - The New Testament

The New Testament Era (~1st Century A.D.)

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- Pre-Reformation Roman Catholicism
 - Protestant Reformation Theology
 - Post Reformation Doctrinal Debates

The Church Era (2nd Century A.D. to present)

The Covenants – What is a Covenant?

- The normal Greek word for covenant is *synthēkē* and refers to a contract or agreement made between two equal parties.
- The Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) and the New Testament authors use the Greek word *diathēkē* for covenants between God and humans. *Diathēkē* is a covenant in which only one party lays down the provisions of the covenant. *Diathēkē* was often used to refer to a person's last will and testament for specifying the distribution of their wealth following their death.
- There are Four basic covenants in Scripture:
 1. The Covenant of Redemption (within the Trinity before the Creation)
 2. The Covenant of Works (between God and Adam and Eve)
 3. The Covenant of Grace (between God and Adam and Eve's descendants: Noah, Abraham, Moses and David)
 4. The New Covenant (of Grace)

The Covenants – What is a Covenant?

- In the case of the Covenant of Works and the Covenant(s) of Grace the word covenant may be defined as:

An unchangeable, divinely imposed legal agreement between God and man that stipulates the conditions of their relationship.

- Covenants contain promises if they are adhered to and consequences if they are not fulfilled.

The Covenants – The Covenant of Redemption

- **The Covenant of Redemption is an agreement among the Father, Son and Holy Spirit before the Creation to redeem a people drawn from every “people group.”**
 - **The Covenant of Redemption is not commonly spoken of.**
 - **It was voluntarily undertaken by God and was not required by the nature or attributes of God.**
 - **It differs from the covenants between God and Humans in that it is a *synthēkē* covenant among equals.**
 - **It is like the covenants with humans in that it specifies the parties, conditions, and promised blessings that make up the covenant.**

The Covenants – The Covenant of Redemption

- **The basic structure of the Covenant of Redemption is:**
 - 1. God the Father initiated the plan of salvation.**
 - 2. God the Son accomplished the redemption of all true believers.**
 - 3. God the Holy Spirit applied redemption to the personal lives of true believers.**

The Covenants – The Covenant of Redemption

1. God the Father initiated the plan of salvation.

Blessed be the **God and Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 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**, to the **praise of his glorious grace**, with which he has **blessed us in the Beloved**. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to **the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time**, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will**, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:3-14)

The Covenants – The Covenant of Redemption

1. In addition God the Father agreed to give the Son a people to redeem for his own possession.

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, **to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.** And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. **“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me,** and they have kept your word. (John 17:1-6)