



Introduction to the Covenant of Grace

REVIEW:

Redemptive Historical Hermeneutic
What is the Covenant of Works?
(Available in the app)

REFORMED THEOLOGY & COVENANT THEOLOGY

"Reformed Theology is Covenant Theology"
What makes up Reformed Theology?

Five Points of Reformed Theology:

- 1) Calvinism
- 2) Covenant theology
- 3) Confessionalism
- 4) Law/Gospel Distinction
- 5) Ordinary Means of Grace

These are the theological understandings that help us understand the Bible and the Christian life.

INTRODUCTION TO COVENANT THEOLOGY

DEFINITION OF A COVENANT:

Quotes:

A covenant...is a guaranteed commitment. Two parties make commitments to one another. There are commitments are often summed up in "I will, you will" statements. Different covenants have different kinds of commitments, and varying kinds of commitments in these covenant result in different kinds of covenants.

TRI-COVENANTALISM

Tri-covenantalism is a way to describe how the Bible is structure to better help us understand the meaning of the text.

Tri-Covenatalism:

- Covenant of Redemption (covered last month, available on the app)
- Covenant of Works
- Covenant of Grace



COVENANT OF WORKS

- **Introduction to COW**
 - Genesis 1-3
- **Federal Headship**

WHAT IS THE COVENANT OF GRACE?

Definition:

The covenant of grace is the means by which God gave eternal life to men after the fall; it brings together all the elect of all times. This covenant is introduced by the confession [1689 LBCF chapter 6] at paragraph 2:

Moreover, man having brought himself under the curse of the law by his fall, it pleased the Lord to make a covenant of grace, wherein he freely offereth unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ, requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved; and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life, his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe.

The covenant of grace is, simply put, salvation by grace alone, by faith alone, through Christ alone. Basically, any man is either under the curse of the broken covenant of works in Adam or under the blessing of the covenant of grace in Christ.

Quote from: *From the Covenant of Works to the Covenant of Grace*

<https://founders.org/2017/04/26/from-the-covenant-of-works-to-the-covenant-of-grace/>

TRACING COVENANT OF GRACE THROUGH BIBLICAL HISTORY

1) The Seed of Eve (Gen 3:15)

Gen. 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

2) From Abraham (Gen 12, 15, & 17)

Gen. 12:1 ¶ Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

Gen. 12:2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.



Gen. 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

3) In the Mosaic

- a. Sacrificial system

4) From David (2 Samuel ; 1 Chron 17:11-14; 2 Chron 6:16)

2Chr. 6:16 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 in my law as you have walked before me.’

5) Clarified by the Prophets (Jeremiah 31:31-34;

Jer. 31:31 ¶ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

Jer. 31:32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.

Jer. 31:33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jer. 31:34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Ezek. 36:26 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.

Ezek. 36:27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

6) Fulfilled in Jesus, the Christ

Matt. 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Matt. 1:2 ¶ Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

Heb. 9:15 ¶ 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.



KEY INTERPRETIVE TOOLS

DISTINGUISHING WORKS AND GRACE (LAW AND GOSPEL)

Rom. 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

Heb. 8:6 But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.

Heb. 8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

Heb. 8:8 ¶ For he finds fault with them when he says:

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,
when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah,*

*Heb. 8:9 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers
on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.*

*For they did not continue in my covenant,
and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.*

*Heb. 8:10 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.*

Why is the New better than the Old?

One reason of the reasons the New Covenant’s superiority to the Old is that the death of Christ accomplished far more than the blood of the Old Covenant’s sacrificial animal victims. By means of t animal blood, the High Priests cleansed the nation once a year. But the people never drew near to the inner sanctuary of the tabernacle, the most holy Place, where the glory of God rested between the cherubim above the mercy seat set on the ark. Jesus’ blood brings His people directly into the heavenly presences of God’s glory and places them there by removing, once and for all, the sins the first covenant could not take away (Heb 9:11-15; Eph 2:16; Col 1:20-22).” – Samuel Renihan, The Mystery of Christ, His Covenant & His Kingdom, 160-161.



IDENTIFYING TYPES AND SHADOWS

1) Types and Antitypes

- a. Types reveal something greater, and other, than themselves (Renihan, 31)

John 6:32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

John 6:33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

"The bread was not a lesser version of Jesus. But it pointed to him. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10:4, "and all drank the same spiritual drink. From they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ." (Renihan, 32)

- b. There are two functions for types

i. Temporary

ii. Preparatory

1. Example: Ceremonial Law, Passover

- c. Types are temporary

i. Why the antitype arrives, the type is no longer needed

1. Menu at a restaurant