



# Sermon Highlights

## **The Covenant of Salvation: Understanding God's Unconditional Promise**

### **Sermon Summary:**

This sermon explores the concept of covenant relationships, using the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah as a foundation to explain God's unconditional covenant of salvation with believers. Pastor Bruce Gordon emphasizes the critical distinction between contracts (which can be broken) and covenants (which are binding promises). Just as God established an unconditional covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15, He offers salvation through an unconditional covenant based solely on faith in Jesus Christ. The message challenges works-based salvation, asserting that salvation comes through believing God's Word, not through human effort or emotion. The sermon culminates in preparation for communion, which symbolically represents entering into this covenant relationship through Christ's broken body and shed blood.

### **Key Points:**

- Marriage is both a legal contract with government and a spiritual covenant with God, serving as a picture of Christ's relationship with the church
- Covenants differ from contracts because covenants cannot be broken, while contracts are legal documents that can be severed
- God established an unconditional covenant with Abraham by passing through the sacrificial animals Himself, indicating He alone would fulfill the covenant requirements
- Salvation is an unconditional covenant requiring only faith in Christ, not works or personal effort
- The original sin in the Garden of Eden was not eating fruit but disbelieving God's Word
- Romans 10:9-13 establishes that salvation comes through confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in His resurrection
- Adding anything to faith alone for salvation questions God's Word and repeats Adam and Eve's sin of disbelief

- Emotional experiences and personal performance do not determine salvation; only faith in God's promise does
- Communion represents the covenant relationship sealed by Christ's sacrifice

### **Scripture Reference:**

- Genesis 24:61-67 (Isaac and Rebekah's marriage)
- Genesis 2 (Adam and Eve's creation and marriage)
- Genesis 12 (God's initial promises to Abraham)
- Genesis 15 (God's covenant ceremony with Abraham)
- Genesis 17 (Reaffirmation of covenant with sign)
- Romans 10:7-13 (Confession and belief for salvation)
- Matthew 24-25 (Enduring to the end during tribulation)

### **Stories:**

- The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah as an illustration of covenant relationship
- Abraham's covenant ceremony in Genesis 15, where God passed between the sacrificial animals as a smoking furnace and burning torch while Abraham slept
- Pastor Bruce Gordon's personal testimony about his marriage, describing how he and his wife laugh together in bed about past difficulties they've overcome, illustrating the strength that comes from enduring trials in covenant relationship
- The Garden of Eden narrative, reframed to emphasize that the sin was disbelieving God's Word rather than simply eating forbidden fruit
- The illustration of emotional highs and lows in the Christian life, warning against basing salvation assurance on feelings rather than God's covenant promise