

- ▣ Next Sunday school will be in 2 weeks. We'll begin our discussion on Calvinism (sovereignty of God, free will, predestination/election, etc.)
- ▣ Last week we talked about...
- ▣ Jesus fulfills the office of:
  - ▣ 1) Prophet
  - ▣ 2) Priest
  - ▣ 3) King
- ▣ Questions from last week...

# COVENANT THEOLOGY

- ▣ Stresses covenants as an interpretive framework to understand God's dealings with his people throughout salvation history.
- ▣ Key to understanding the whole of Scripture.
- ▣ Three chief theological covenants:
  - 1) Covenant of Redemption
  - 2) Covenant of Works
  - 3) Covenant of Grace.
- ▣ See also: Dispensationalism

# COVENANT THEOLOGY

- ▣ What does a covenant consist of?
  - 1) Stipulations (conditions) and Sanctions (rewards for obedience or penalties for disobedience)
  - 2) Oaths and Vows
  - 3) Ratification

# COVENANT THEOLOGY

## 1) Stipulations and Sanctions (conditions and consequences)

- ▣ Instead of just understanding the law of God as a list of abstract moral rules, we should understand God's law in the context of keeping covenant.
- ▣ In other words, His people are to obey his law because it defines a personal relationship between them and God.
- ▣ This anticipates Jesus' own words to his disciples, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15).

# COVENANT THEOLOGY

Blessings were promised for obedience in Deuteronomy 28:1-8: *“If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. <sup>2</sup> All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: <sup>3</sup> You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. <sup>4</sup> The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock – the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.*

# COVENANT THEOLOGY

*<sup>5</sup> Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. <sup>6</sup> You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. <sup>7</sup> The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. <sup>8</sup> The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.”*

# COVENANT THEOLOGY

In contrast to the blessings promised for obedience, curses were promised for disobedience (v. 15-20): *“However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: <sup>16</sup> You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country. <sup>17</sup> Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed.*

# COVENANT THEOLOGY

*18 The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. 19 You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out. 20 The LORD will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him."*

# COVENANT THEOLOGY

## 2) Oaths and Vows

- ▣ Think of a marriage ceremony. Publicly, before witnesses, we seal our promise with sacred vows.
- ▣ God takes vows so seriously, he swore upon his own Name that he will keep the covenant he established with Abraham.
- ▣ In Genesis 15, God promises Abraham the land of Canaan and innumerable descendants, but Abraham asks for confirmation and certainty.

# COVENANT THEOLOGY

## 3) Ratification

- ▣ For the Israelites, their covenant was ratified through circumcision. In a sense, it is to acknowledge before God the consequence of breaking covenant with him.
- ▣ That is, they would be cut off and removed from God just as the foreskin is removed from the body.
- ▣ In the New Testament, Jesus ratifies the new covenant with his own blood.

# COVENANT THEOLOGY

- ▣ 1) The Covenant of Redemption
  - Rooted in eternity within the Trinity (between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) to accomplish human redemption.
  - All 3 persons were in perfect agreement. John 3:16 says God *sent* Jesus. Jesus says he *chooses* to lay his life down for the sheep, and that he's doing the Father's *will*. (John 10:15-18).
  - Once Jesus ascends to heaven, the Bible says Jesus and the Father send the Holy Spirit to apply the work of Christ.

# COVENANT THEOLOGY

- ▣ 2) The Covenant of Works
  - Initial covenant established with Adam (and mankind) in the garden.
  - Requires perfect and personal obedience.
  - **Genesis 2:17**, “The day you eat of it (the tree of knowledge of good and evil), you will surely die”
  - **Leviticus 18:5**, “You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.”
  - We broke this covenant when Adam broke it and we continue to break it today.
  - **Hosea 6:7**, “But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.”

# COVENANT THEOLOGY

## ▣ 3) The Covenant of Grace

- Made between God and *sinner*s. Hence it is grace.
- An *addition* to the first. It *does not nullify* the first Covenant of Works. (God still justly judges violators).
- Makes it possible for the Covenant of Works to be fulfilled.
- Our salvation is ultimately accomplished by the fulfillment of the Covenant of Works. This is achieved by the “second Adam,” Christ himself, who fulfills the requirements of the Covenant of Works by his perfect and personal obedience .

# COVENANT THEOLOGY

- ▣ **Genesis 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.”
- ▣ **Hebrews 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.”
- ▣ **Hebrews 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.”
- ▣ **Hebrews 12:24**, “and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”