

# Covenant

What is a Covenant? What is it? Is it important?

Who's in the Covenant of Grace? Who's not?

Are children of believers in the Covenant?

Does being in the Covenant guarantee salvation?

How many Covenants are there?

Are we in the same Covenant as Old Testament Israel?

Are we in the same Covenant as Abraham? as Moses?

Was the Law of Moses a different way to salvation?

Did Jesus establish a new Covenant? What does "New" mean?

Did Jesus abolish the old Covenant?

Was Old Testament Israel saved by the keeping of the law?

Is the Old Testament relevant to New Testament believers?

Does Covenant even matter to my personal salvation?

Are we in a Covenant? Who cares?

# How Do You Think?

Imagine that we don't know you, and tell us about yourself  
Take a minute or so and tell us who you are

Tell me a bit about your family history  
Where were your parents from? How did they meet?

# How Does God Teach Us?

Rough Categories of Books of the Bible:

\*some books are double counted; ergo, sum > 66

<u>Category</u>		<u># Books of the Bible</u>
Law		3
Systematic Theology		4
Poetry, Wisdom		8
Specific Instruction & Applied Theology		18
History		37 (56%)
	Historical Narrative	25
	Historical Prophecy	17

# God Primarily Uses History to Teach Us Of His Covenant

History, Narrative, Application

Stephen's sermon, Acts 7

Centrality of Genesis

History with a point

Understanding context of Covenant history

How did our Covenantal forefathers hear Scripture?

Translation, historical / cultural / geopolitical context

What did they all know that we don't?

How did they interact with the pagan civilizations  
around them?

# What is Covenant?

A relationship

A law-bound relationship

Are law and love at odds?

Covenantal relationship vs. solely personal relationship  
e.g. Family relationship (parent, child, sibling)

# Eternal Covenant

2nd Thessalonians 2:13-14 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

Ephesians 1:4 For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Titus 1:1-2 “Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness-- a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time.”

II Timothy 1:9 ...according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ from all eternity

I Peter 1:20 He [Christ] was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God...”

# Intra-Trinitarian Love Gift

- Ultimately, the gift of salvation is not a gift to you
- The gift of salvation is a gift OF you
- You are the Father's eternal love gift to the Son
- God uses His elect to express Himself to Himself within the Trinity relationship
  
- My personal, individual faith decision is not the center of the universe
- God the Father's eternal love gift to the God the Son is not dependent on  
your personal, faith decision to be certain and effective
- Did Christ make salvation possible for all, but certain for none?!?

# Why Me?

Why do you have faith in God and so many other people don't?

- A) Because the gospel is logical and you're more logical than they are
- B) Because you're better informed / better educated than they are
- C) Because you have more courage to admit the truth than they do
- D) Because God chose you from all eternity out of His grace, He turned you from a 'God hater' to a 'God lover' and enabled you by the Holy Spirit to believe in the Son by giving you faith as a gift

Christ said "You did not choose me, but I chose you." (John 15:16)

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9



# Christ Prays For His Gift

John 17: 1 "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him... 6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word... 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled... 20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you... 24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

# Why Is Covenant Important?

John 6:39 This is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

John 10:28-29 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; *no one can snatch them out of my hand*. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; *no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand*.

How can you be sure of your salvation?  
Are you important to God?

The purpose of your salvation only has meaning in the context of His Covenant

What can a child know of their place in life without a real idea of “family”?

A child's cannot know himself without knowing of the parent's marriage  
Covenant