

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

### LESSON 12: DELIGHTING IN GOD'S COVENANT WITH HUMANITY

#### Intro:

“After describing the ruin into which Adam plunged the human race, they want to turn our attention to Christ, who came to restore our relationship with God. But to understand Jesus and his redeeming work, we must first understand the covenantal structure in which God provided a Savior for a lost and fallen race.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>99</sup>

BIG IDEA: We glorify & delight in God for how He \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### WSC Q 20: Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

A: God, having out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.

WLC Q 30: Did God live all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

A: God does not leave all men to perish in the estate of sin and misery, into which they fell by the breach of the first covenant, commonly called the covenant of works; but of his mere love and mercy delivers his elect out of it, and brings them into an estate of salvation by the second covenant, commonly called the covenant of grace.

1. The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto him as their Creator, yet they could never have any fruition of him as their blessedness and reward, but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.

- One of the driving concepts here is the Creator-Creature \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is not a relationship between equals, God is greater than us & has \_\_\_\_\_ over us.
- As creatures we have an \_\_\_\_\_ to the Creator, but He has no obligation to us.
- God \_\_\_\_\_ to speak to us, to offer us blessing and reward.
- This is \_\_\_\_\_: God does not owe us anything nor is under any obligation.
- Reformed Theology is also \_\_\_\_\_ Theology: covenants structure Scripture & salvation.

“It provides the context within which God reveals himself to us, ministers to us, and acts to redeem us.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>100</sup>

- Due to this “voluntary condescension” all covenants with God are \_\_\_\_\_ in nature.
- A covenant: formal \_\_\_\_\_ between 2 or more parties involving promises, \_\_\_\_\_, witnesses and vows.
- Hittite Suzerain Treaties (George Mendenhall => Meredith Kline): Lord & \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>101</sup>

<sup>99</sup> Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 214.

<sup>100</sup> Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 205.

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- **Historical Prologue:** reminds \_\_\_\_\_ of prior acts of the lord on their \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Promises and Stipulations:** these are what each party \_\_\_\_\_ to do.

“I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,<sup>2</sup> that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” **Genesis 17**

- **Sanctions:** blessings for \_\_\_\_\_ and curses for \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Oaths:** \_\_\_\_\_ the covenant. These were witnessed by others for accountability.

<sup>3</sup> Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.” **Exodus 24**

- **Cutting a Covenant:** a blood rite \_\_\_\_\_ the covenant showing the penalty.

<sup>7</sup> Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” <sup>8</sup> And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.” **Exodus 24**

“It was certainly an act of grace, favor, and admirable condescension in God, to enter into a covenant, and such a covenant, with His own creature.” **Thomas Boston**<sup>102</sup>

“The enjoyment of the Creator’s fullness and love by the creature, however, is a matter of free and sovereign grace, depending solely on the will of the Creator.” **A.A. Hodge**<sup>103</sup>

2. The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience.

- The first covenant between God and humanity is a covenant of \_\_\_\_\_.
- It was made with Adam, and, in him, all his descendants. Covenant \_\_\_\_\_!
- This is denied by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ despite passages like Romans 5.
- Life was promised to Adam on the basis of works: \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ obedience.
- There must be \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness for God to bestow everlasting life on a person.
- It is gracious in that God is \_\_\_\_\_ what is simply \_\_\_\_\_ by creation.

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<sup>101</sup> See Meredith Kline, *The Structure of Biblical Authority* and *The Treaty of the Great King*.

<sup>102</sup> Boston, pp. 49.

<sup>103</sup> Hodge, pp. 120.

<sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. **Romans 5**

<sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. **1 Corinthians 15**

WLC Q 31: With whom was the covenant of grace made?

A: The covenant of grace was made with Christ the second Adam, and in him with all the elect as his seed.

WLC Q 32: How is the grace of God manifested in the second covenant?

A: The grace of God is manifested in the second covenant, in that he freely provides and offers to sinners a Mediator, and life and salvation by him; and requiring faith as the condition to interest them in him, promises and gives his Holy Spirit to all his elect, to work in them that faith, with all other saving graces; and to enable them unto all holy obedience, as the evidence of the truth of their faith and thankfulness to God, and as the way which he has appointed them to salvation.

3. Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace; wherein he freely offers 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.

- A new covenant was made which is usually called the covenant of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Sinners are now freely offered life & salvation in Jesus Christ upon condition of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jesus, in his humanity, \_\_\_\_\_ the covenant of \_\_\_\_\_ as our Mediator & Messiah.
- The Holy Spirit makes the elect \_\_\_\_\_ and able to believe in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Neo-nomianism: \_\_\_\_\_ replaces \_\_\_\_\_ as the condition.
- Arminianism believes people are \_\_\_\_\_ to believe w/out the work of the \_\_\_\_\_.

“The covenant of grace is what God does to ensure that, under the covenant of works, we do not perish, but are redeemed by Jesus Christ’s fulfillment of this covenant.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>104</sup>

“If mankind is to be saved, there must be a new and gracious intervention on the part of God.”

**A.A. Hodge**<sup>105</sup>

“Faith is not a work which Christ condescends in the gospel to accept instead of perfect obedience as the ground of salvation- it is only the hand whereby we clasp the person and work of our Redeemer, which is the true ground of salvation.” **A.A. Hodge**<sup>106</sup>

“Faith, therefore, instead of being the condition of the covenant of grace, belongs to the promissory part of the covenant.” **Robert Shaw**<sup>107</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 219.

<sup>105</sup> Hodge, pp. 124.

<sup>106</sup> Hodge, pp. 125.

<sup>107</sup> Shaw, pp. 92.

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4. This covenant of grace is frequently set forth in Scripture by the name of a testament, in reference to the death of Jesus Christ the Testator, and to the everlasting inheritance, with all things belonging to it, therein bequeathed.

- In the NT, particularly Hebrews, this covenant is also called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- This is in reference to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ without which no one can receive the \_\_\_\_\_.
- He suffers the \_\_\_\_\_ of the covenant of works in our \_\_\_\_\_ (Gal. 3:13-14).
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of the covenant are seen as an everlasting \_\_\_\_\_.

WLC Q 33: Was the covenant of grace always administered after one and the same manner?

A: The covenant of grace was not always administered after the same manner, but the administrations of it under the Old Testament were different from those under the New.

WLC Q 34: How was the covenant of grace always administered under the Old Testament?

A: The covenant of grace was administered under the Old Testament, by promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, the Passover, and other types and ordinances, which did all fore-signify Christ then to come, and were for that time sufficient to build up the elect in faith in the promised Messiah, by whom they then had full remission of sin, and eternal salvation.

5. This covenant was differently administered in the time of the law, and in the time of the gospel: under the law, it was administered by promises, prophecies, sacrifices, circumcision, the paschal lamb, and other types and ordinances delivered to the people of the Jews, all foreshadowing Christ to come; which were, for that time, sufficient and efficacious, through the operation of the Spirit, to instruct and build up the elect in faith in the promised Messiah, by whom they had full remission of sins, and eternal salvation; and is called the old testament.

- The covenant provides \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ between the Old and New Testaments.
- But there are elements of \_\_\_\_\_ between the two testaments or covenants.
- “The new is in the old concealed, and the old is in the new revealed.” **Augustine**
- The Old used “\_\_\_\_\_ and types” to reveal the covenant of grace pointing to Jesus.
- We see \_\_\_\_\_ given and prophecies made which are fulfilled in the Messiah.
- These provisional elements were \_\_\_\_\_ not in themselves but in \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Apostles used the OT to help the early church \_\_\_\_\_ what God did.

“The covenant of grace, rather than annihilating the covenant of works, makes provision for someone else to fulfill the covenant of works for us.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>108</sup>

“The difference is this: Old Testament saints were justified by their faith in the promises that would be fulfilled later, so their faith looked ahead to the yet unfulfilled work of their Redeemer;

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<sup>108</sup> Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 225.

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New Testament saints put their faith and trust not in Old Testament promises, but in their realization and fulfillment in the person and work of Christ.” **R.C. Sproul**<sup>109</sup>

WLC Q 35: How is the covenant of grace administered under the New Testament?

A: Under the New Testament, when Christ the substance was exhibited, the same covenant of grace was and still is to be administered in the preaching of the Word, and the administration of the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper; in which grace and salvation are held forth in more fullness, evidence, and efficacy, to all nations.

6. Under the gospel, when Christ, the substance, was exhibited, the ordinances in which this covenant is dispensed are the preaching of the Word, and the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper: which, though fewer in number, and administered with more simplicity, and less outward glory, yet, in them, it is held forth in more fullness, evidence and spiritual efficacy, to all nations, both Jews and Gentiles; and is called the new testament. There are not therefore two covenants of grace, differing in substance, but one and the same, under various dispensations.

- Discontinuity: the shifts that took place with Christ the \_\_\_\_\_ appeared.
- It is no longer administered in \_\_\_\_\_, sacrifices and \_\_\_\_\_ worship.
- It is now administered in Word & Sacrament because \_\_\_\_\_ has been shed by Jesus.
- With all the types & shadows gone, there is far greater \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ now.
- There has been expansion from Israel to both Jews and \_\_\_\_\_.
- “Dispensations” is used to refer to different \_\_\_\_\_ of the same covenant.

How does this help you glorify and enjoy God?

Conclusion:

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<sup>109</sup> Sproul, Vol. 1, pp. 227.