

We will begin the eighth lecture on systematic theology.

/C. Requirements and promises in the covenant of redemption.

/1. Requirements of the Father God. /a. Christ was to assume human nature by being born of a woman. /Christ needed to come in the same weak human nature that we have. /Galatians 4:4, 5 /Hebrews 2:10, 11 /Hebrews 4:15.

/b. Christ was to receive punishment in place of the chosen people, the sinners. /Christ needed to place Himself under the law and completely obey the law, and He died to pay the penalty for sin. /Mark 10:45.

/c. Christ was to save the chosen people. /Christ worked through the power of the Holy Spirit and made chosen believers repent and believe in the gospel. /1 John 5:11, 12 /John 16:13-15.

/2. Promises of the Father God. /a. The Father prepared a body for Christ, which was uncontaminated by sin. /Hebrews 4:15 /Luke 1:34, 35.

/b. The Father filled Christ with the Holy Spirit so that He would carry out His calling for the Messianic office. /John 3:34 /Acts 10:38.

/c. The Father supported Christ so that He would carry out His ministry. /Christ would destroy Satan. /Christ would establish the kingdom of God. /Isaiah 42:6, 7 /Luke 22:43.

/d. The Father entrusted Christ with all power in heaven and on earth. /Psalm 16:8-11 /Acts 2:25-28 /Philippians 2:9-11.

/e. The Father sent out the Holy Spirit in the name of Christ. /John 3:6 /Galatians 5:11 /John 14:26.

/f. The Father works through the Holy Spirit to bring all people in Christ to repentance, faith in the gospel, and to salvation. /John 6:37, 39.

/II. The covenant of grace.

/A. The contracting parties in the covenant of grace.

/The first party of the covenant of grace is the Father God. /The second party is God's chosen people. /God forgave the sins of all sinners who were chosen by his grace, /and he gave the promise of the blessing of salvation. /Sinners who have been chosen by God receive gifts from God through repentance and faith.

/1. The purpose of the covenant of grace.

/a. The covenant of grace is a covenant established to save sinners.

/b. The covenant of grace is a covenant established to form a union with God. /After the fall of Adam, Adam's descendants were cut off from God because of sin. /God's salvation gives new life to sinners. /God and man were united through Jesus Christ. /John 15:1-5 /John 6:56.

/c. The covenant of grace forms a friendship with God. /1 Corinthians 1:9. /It is impossible for sinners to have fellowship with God because of sin.

/However, when sinners believed in the redemption of Christ, they were forgiven of their sins and found peace with God. /We became God's children and have fellowship with God. /Hebrews 2:11 /John 15:14.

/d. The covenant of grace is a covenant leading to spiritual blessings. /1 John 3:2. /God gave the blessing of forgiveness. /God allowed us to have eternal life and become his children, and he calls us to heaven.

/2. The covenant of grace accomplishes a purpose.

/a. When the covenant of grace is given to unbelievers to accomplish a purpose, /the covenant may be conditional.

/Ishmael and Esau also received the covenant that Abraham received. /Genesis 17:20 /Genesis 25:23. /The Israelites were a people dead in sin, but they were still people of the covenant. /Genesis 17:7 /Romans 9:4. /To them, the covenant of grace was a conditional covenant.

/b. The covenant of redemption is made only with those who obey the requirements of the covenant of grace. /Only those who obey the requirements of the covenant of grace can receive the blessing of salvation. /The second party of the covenant can include the chosen people and their children as well.

/B. Promises and requirements of the covenant of grace.

/1. Promises of the covenant of grace. /God said, "I will be your God and you will be my people." /Exodus 6:7 /Leviticus 26:12 /Jeremiah 24:7 /Ezekiel 11:20 /Hebrews 8:10.

/a. God forgives sins. /Romans 5:1.

/b. God gives eternal life. /John 3:16.

/c. God's people are made his adopted sons. /Galatians 4:5.

/d. God's people will be resurrected. /Romans 6:5 /1 Corinthians 15:13.

/e. God's people will enter heaven.

/f. The Holy Spirit will dwell in God's people. /1 Corinthians 3:16.

/g. God gives blessings. /Deuteronomy 28:1-6. /Saved believers will receive blessings in this life and in the afterlife. /Many times, material blessings in this life symbolize spiritual blessings of the afterlife. /Deuteronomy 28:1-6.

/2. Requirements of the covenant of grace. /The chosen must repent and believe in the gospel. /Mark 1:15. /The chosen must love God, obey his word, and glorify him. /Deuteronomy 11:13 /1 Samuel 15:22 /Colossians 1:10 /1 Thessalonians 4:1.

/C. Characteristics of the covenant of grace.

/1. It is a gracious covenant.

/God provided Christ. /1 Timothy 2:5. /God guaranteed it himself. /Romans 9:5 /John 20:28. /God allows man to live up to the responsibilities of the covenant of grace through the Holy Spirit. /He allows us to bear fruit of the Holy Spirit. /Galatians 5:22, 23.

/2. It is a Trinitarian covenant.

/The Father chose us. /Ephesians 1:4. /The Father guaranteed our salvation and redeemed us. /Ephesians 1:7. /The Holy Spirit effectively applies the covenant. /Ephesians 1:13.

/The Holy Spirit moves sinners to repent and believe in the gospel. /The Holy Spirit also resides in believers and leads them to the truth. /1 Corinthians 3:16 /John 16:13.

/3. It is an eternal covenant.

/a. It is an eternally lasting covenant. /Genesis 17:19 /Hebrews 13:20 /2 Samuel 23:5.

/b. The covenant will never be terminated. /John 10:28. /The promise will never be broken to those who receive the covenant with faith. /John 3:16.

/4. It is a spiritual covenant.

/a There is a union of life with God. /John 6:56 /John 15:1-5. /Jesus Christ dwells in the believer and the believer in Christ.

/b. The friendly relationship with God is restored. /John 1:12 /1 Corinthians 1:9
/Revelation 3:20 /Romans 8:15.

/c. The believer receives spiritual blessings from God. /Romans 6:5 /Galatians 5:22. /God gives forgiveness of sins. /God gives eternal life. /Believers become children of God. /Believers receive heaven as inheritance. /The Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts. /God allows us to become more and more like Jesus. /Galatians 4:19.

/5. The covenant is the same in all generations.

/a. The essence of the promise is the same. /The essence of the promise is that God saves sinners and takes them as his children, and hence, they become people of heaven.
/Genesis 17:7 /Exodus 19:5 /2 Samuel 7:14 /Hebrews 8:10.

/b. The content of the covenant is the same in the Old Testament and the New Testament. /The content of the covenant is the promise that God would save sinners through Jesus Christ. /In the Old Testament, it was the promise of the coming Christ who would save sinners.

/In the New Testament, the promised Christ came and accomplished redemption, and saves those who believe in the gospel. /Genesis 3:15 /Galatians 1:8, 9 /Galatians 3:8.

/c. The way in receiving the promise of the covenant is the same. /The sinner must repent and believe in the gospel. /Mark 1:15 /Romans 4:11 /Galatians 3:7-9.

/d. The Mediator of the covenant is eternally the same. /Jesus is the only Mediator between God and the sinner. /Hebrews 13:8 /Acts 4:12.

/6. The covenant is both conditional and unconditional.

/a. The covenant is conditional. /The redemption of Jesus Christ is necessary. /No one can receive salvation without the redemption of Christ. /The giving of cattle and sheep as offerings in the Old Testament times is a model of the redemption of the cross of Christ. /One must repent and believe in Jesus to receive the grace of salvation.

/b. The covenant is unconditional. /There are no conditions in receiving salvation. /Ephesians 2:8. /Repentance and faith are not costs or merits in receiving salvation. /Repentance and faith are simply duties to fulfill to receive salvation.

/7. The covenant is a testament.

/a. The covenant of grace is a covenant that is a gift to man from God. /Ephesians 1:3-5.

/b. The covenant of grace is a covenant that is given freely to man by God. /God gives man eternal life and the gospel. /1 John 5:11 /Romans 1:2-4.

/c. The covenant of grace is firm and inviolable. /John 10:28.

/D. The relation of Christ to the covenant of grace.

/1. Christ is our special Mediator. /Hebrews 8:6 /1 Timothy 2:5. /Mediator is “mesites” in Greek. /This means, “restorer of peace.” /“Arbitrator.” /“Middleman.”

/The sinless body of Jesus died on the cross. /The Lord atoned for our sins at once, and he established peace between the sinner and God. /Hebrews 8:6.

/2. Christ satisfied God’s justice. /Christ received all punishment that we sinners were to receive. /Hebrews 9:15.

/3. Christ became an example to man. /Philippians 2:6-8 /John 14:9 /Luke 2:51 /John 13:14, 15.

/4. Christ completed believers’ salvation. /John 14:16.

/E. Membership in the covenant of grace.

/1. Adults in the covenant of grace.

/a. Adults can only enter the covenant of grace through faith. /They can enter the covenant of grace through repentance and faith alone. /They enter the covenant of grace through repentance and faith in their relationships with God. /They also enter the covenant of grace through a confession of faith in the church. /Matthew 28:19.

/b. There is a union of life with Jesus Christ. /1 John 5:11 /John 15:5.

/c. They participate in and perform certain external duties. /Believers in the covenant of grace participate in worship and service. /They continue to love and obey God with joy. /Habakkuk 3:17-18.

/2. Children of believers in the covenant of grace. /Children of believers enter the covenant of grace through birth, but with a conditional promise. /The “conditional promise” is that they will receive salvation through God’s grace if they repent and

believe. /Mark 1:15.

/Therefore, it does not mean that they are in a covenant of eternal life, or that the covenant will be fulfilled in their lives. /Children of believers can be saved through faith.

/Yet, we cannot say that all children of believers will be given eternal life. /Even children of believers must individually confess their faith. /Genesis 17:8 /Matthew 19:14.

/God works in the hearts of children of believers through this covenant, /and he will give them new life by his grace. /They will possess new life /if they do not defy God's grace.

/When they come to years of discretion, they must voluntarily receive the responsibilities of the covenant through true confessions of faith. /If they fail to do this, they deny the covenant of grace.

/3. The unregenerate in the covenant of grace. /There are those who are unregenerate because they do not yet believe. /The unregenerate can conditionally participate in the covenant of grace in the earthly church.

/Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened." /Matthew 11:28. /They are admonished and exhorted to live by the requirements of the covenant, /and the church treats them as covenant children and teaches them to live in the truth.

/Furthermore, they participate in the common covenant blessings, and can participate in worship and take part in services in the church. /The Holy Spirit convicts them of sin, and enlightens them in a measure. /Genesis 6:3 /Matthew 13:18-22.

/They are under the responsibilities of the covenant, and they have the obligation to repent and believe in the gospel. /If they do not receive Christ with faith, they will receive judgment as covenant breakers.

/F. The different dispensations of the covenant.

/1. The first revelation of the covenant in Genesis 3:15.

/"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, /and between your offspring and hers; /he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

/This is **the protevangel, or the first gospel**, that says that Christ would come and defeat Satan and Satan's powers. /God clothed Adam and Eve with garments of skin. /Genesis 3:21. /This was a revelation of the redemption of the cross of Christ.

/2. The natural covenant with Noah.

/Genesis 9:11 /Genesis 8:22. /This is called a natural covenant, or a general covenant of grace, because of God's promise of natural blessings.

/3. The covenant with Abraham.

/God made Abraham and his descendants subjects of the covenant. /Genesis 17:4-8.

/Abraham and his descendants were to accept the covenant of God with faith. /Genesis 15:6.

/Christ could come as a descendant of Abraham. /Genesis 17:6 /Galatians 3:29. /A believer who has received salvation through faith in Christ is given the everlasting inheritance of heaven. /Genesis 17:8 /Romans 8:17.

/4. The Sinaitic covenant.

/a. The covenant of Sinai was essentially the same as the covenant that God established with Abraham. /God made the nation of Israel the subject of the covenant. /Exodus 20:2. /God gave the covenant to add to the covenant of grace.

/The law increased the consciousness of sin. /Romans 3:20 /Romans 4:15 /Galatians 3:19.
/The law was the teacher that led sinners to Christ. /Galatians 3:24.

/b. There was a ceremonial and typical service. /The priests from the tribe of Levi symbolized Jesus the High Priest. /Hebrews 4:14. /The offering of cattle and sheep symbolized the redemption of the cross of Jesus Christ. /John 1:29 /1 Corinthians 5:7.

/c. The law symbolized the revelation of the truth of salvation.

/5. The covenant of the New Testament.

/a. The covenant of the New Testament is salvation given through faith. /The covenant of the New Testament is salvation given through faith in Jesus Christ. /Therefore, the covenant of the New Testament is essentially the same as that of the covenant of the Old Testament. /Romans 4:3 /Romans 4:9 /Galatians 3:1-8.

/b. The covenant of the New Testament is universal. /There are no limits regarding nations and peoples who receive salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. /Galatians 3:28 /Romans 4:11, 17.

/c. The ministry of redemption was fulfilled through the cross and resurrection of Christ. /Romans 4:25.

/d. There is reconciliation with God through faith. /Romans 5:1, 10.

/e. There is eternal life through faith. /Anyone who believes in the gospel will receive eternal life. /This eternal life is life in Jesus Christ. /John 3:16 /1 John 5:11 /John 15:5.

/f. The Holy Spirit is poured out on the church. /Believers received the fullness of God's abundant grace and spiritual blessings in the church. /1 Corinthians 12:4-13 /1 Corinthians 13:12.

/g. The salvation of believers will be completed when Jesus returns. /There will also be full communication of life with God. /1 John 3:2 /Revelation 21:3-4.

/Here we will conclude the eighth lecture on systematic theology. /Thank you.