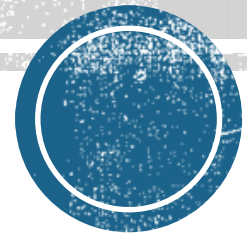


WHAT IS REFORMED THEOLOGY?

Basics of Our Faith

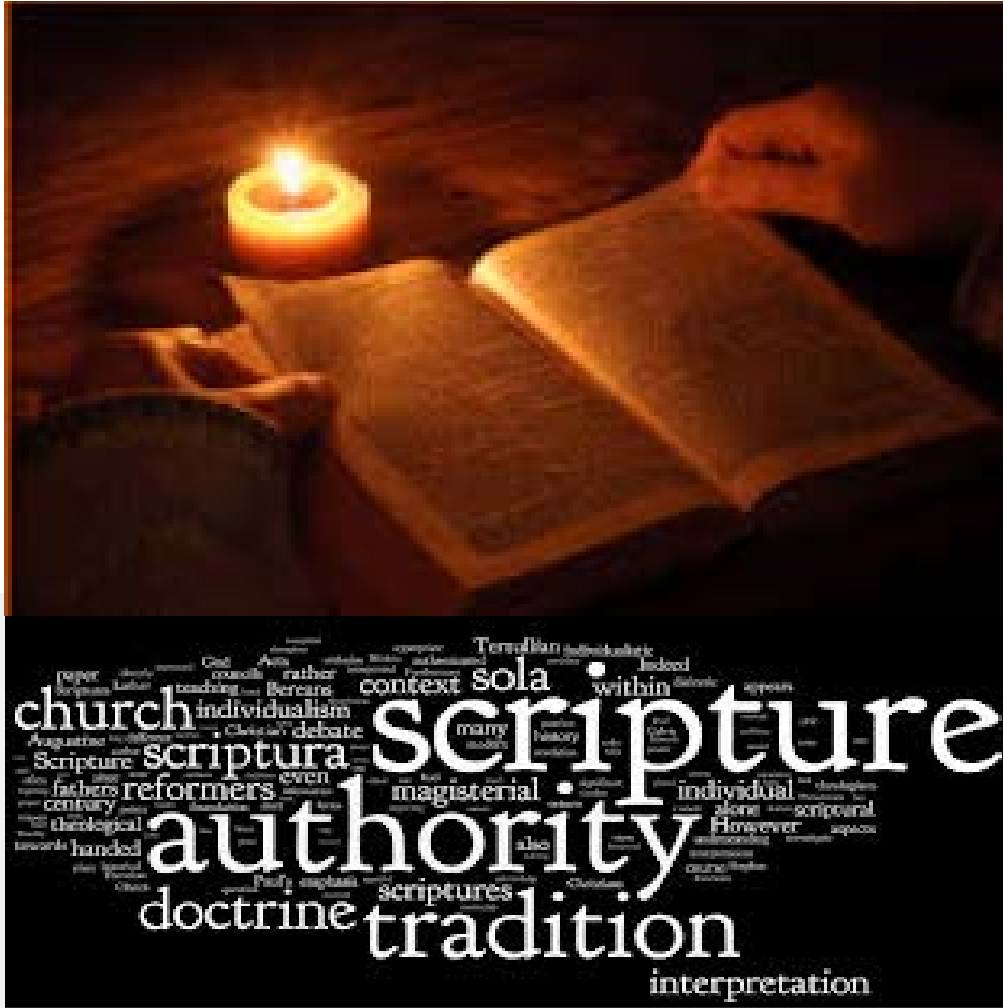




COVENANT THEOLOGY

Week 4

REVIEW



- **Analogy of faith:**
Scripture interprets
Scripture: interpret the
obscure in light of clear
- Genre analysis,
metaphors, simile,
parables, hyperboles,
parallelisms, Hebrew
and Greek styles





WHAT IS A COVENANT?





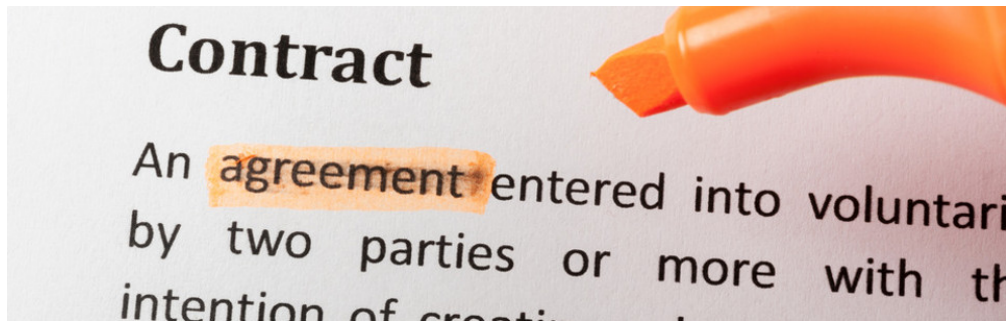
CHILDREN'S CATECHISM

What is a
covenant?

*“An agreement
between two or
more persons.”*



WHAT IS A COVENANT?



- An Agreement
- A Relationship
- More than a promise
- An Oath-Bound Promise
- “*A bond in blood sovereignly administered*”



EXAMPLES OF A COVENANT

Mortgage on your house

- Parties:
 - you and your bank
- Conditions:
 - you-- make payments
 - the bank-- give you the loan



EXAMPLES OF A COVENANT

- **Marriage**
 - **Parties:**
man and woman
 - **Sign (or seal):**
wedding rings, the
vows
 - **Witnesses**



REVIEW: DEFINITION OF COVENANT

“The gospel set forth in the context of God’s eternal plan of communication with His people as it unfolds in the historical outworking of the redemptive plan of God. Covenant theology is central to the message of the Scriptures, which testify to God’s redemption of His people in and through the finished work of Jesus Christ.”



HOW DO WE KNOW IT IS A COVENANT?

- We DO NOT just look for the word “covenant” in a concordance
- We look to the **substance** of what is going on
- We look for the **ELEMENTS**



NO WORD “COVENANT?”



- A very important principal of Bible study is that the Bible is a complete book that is **woven together**.





GENESIS 2-3

- When God created man, He entered into a **covenant of life** with him, upon **condition** of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the **pain of death**.

SHORTER CATECHISM 12

QUESTIONS:

What is emphasized?

Who is emphasized?



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

WCF 7.2

QUESTIONS:

What is emphasized?

Who is emphasized?





THE COVENANT OF WORKS



SUBSTANCE OF THE COVENANT

1. Parties
2. Condition
3. Promise
4. Threat or Curse

1. God and Adam
2. Perfect, Personal Obedience
3. Life (Eternal)
4. Death



1. PARTIES TO THE COVENANT

- God and Adam, acting as the representative (federal head) of all mankind
- Adam and Eve understood the nature of the covenant

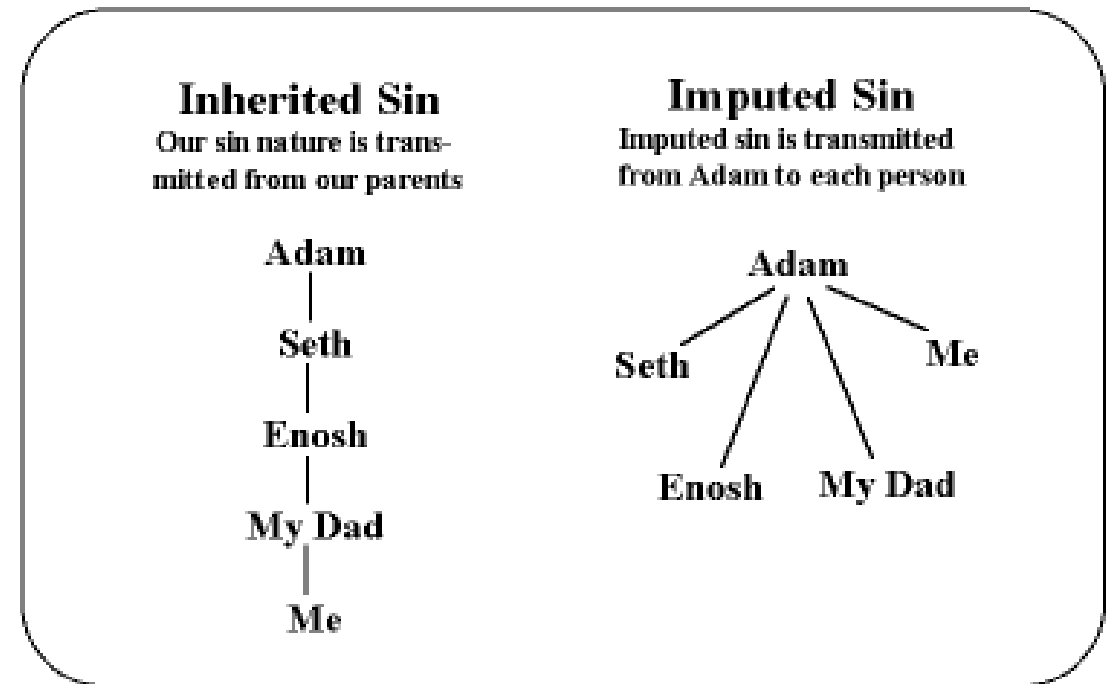


- *And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”*
(Genesis 3:2-3)



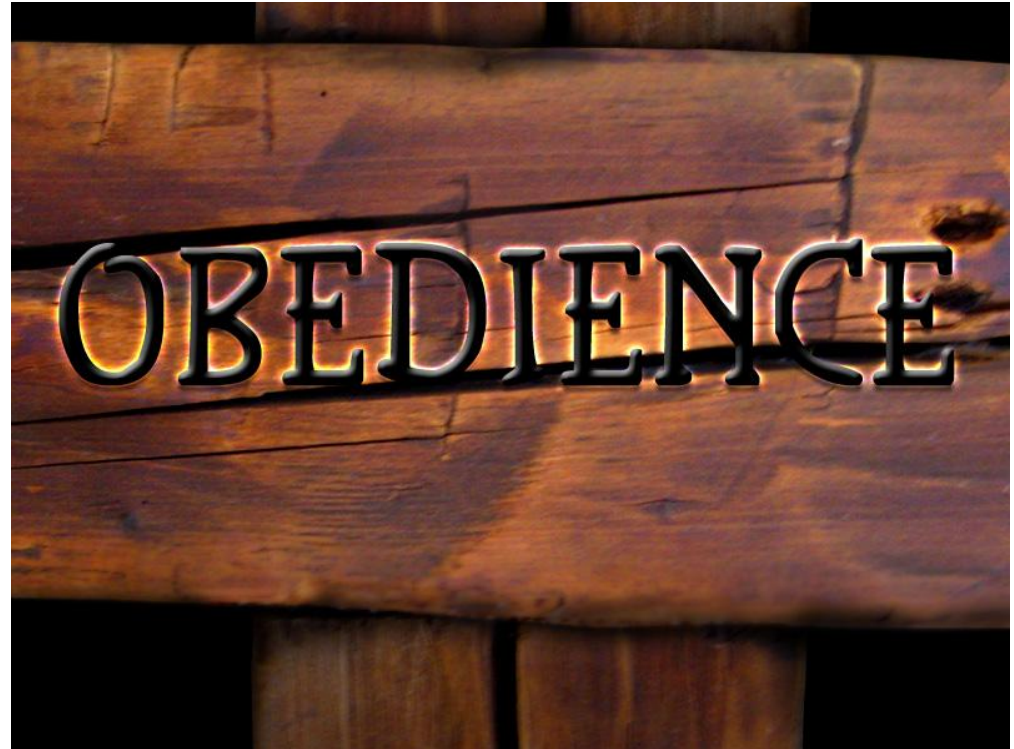
ADAM ACTED FOR ALL MEN?

- Adam's penalty passed onto **the entire human race**
- The Bible teaches that Adam was our representative
 - Romans 5:12-21



2. CONDITION: OBEDIENCE

- What did Adam have to obey?
- The will of God was expressed in a positive command.



WHAT KIND OF OBEDIENCE?

- Perfect obedience
 - James 2:10
 - Deuteronomy 27:26
- Personal obedience
 - Galatians 3:10
- Obedience of the heart
 - Matthew 19



OBEY.



3. PROMISE FOR OBEDIENCE

- Eternal life
- Blessedness and Communion with God
 - Leviticus 18:5
 - Romans 2:6-7; 7:10; 10:5
 - Deuteronomy 20:15
 - Matthew 19:17
 - Galatians 3:12



4. THREAT FOR DISOBEDIENCE

- Death
- And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
(Genesis 2:16-17)



REVIEW: COVENANT OF WORKS

1. God and Adam – *Adam represents all men*
2. Obedience – *Perfect, personal obedience*
3. Eternal Life – *Communion with God forever*
4. Death – *Spiritual, physical, judicial*





COVENANT OF GRACE

COVENANT OF GRACE

1. Parties
2. Condition
3. Promise/Blessing
4. Penalty/Curse

1. God and Christ
2. Faith in Christ
3. God is our God
Forgiveness of sins
4. God always fulfills!

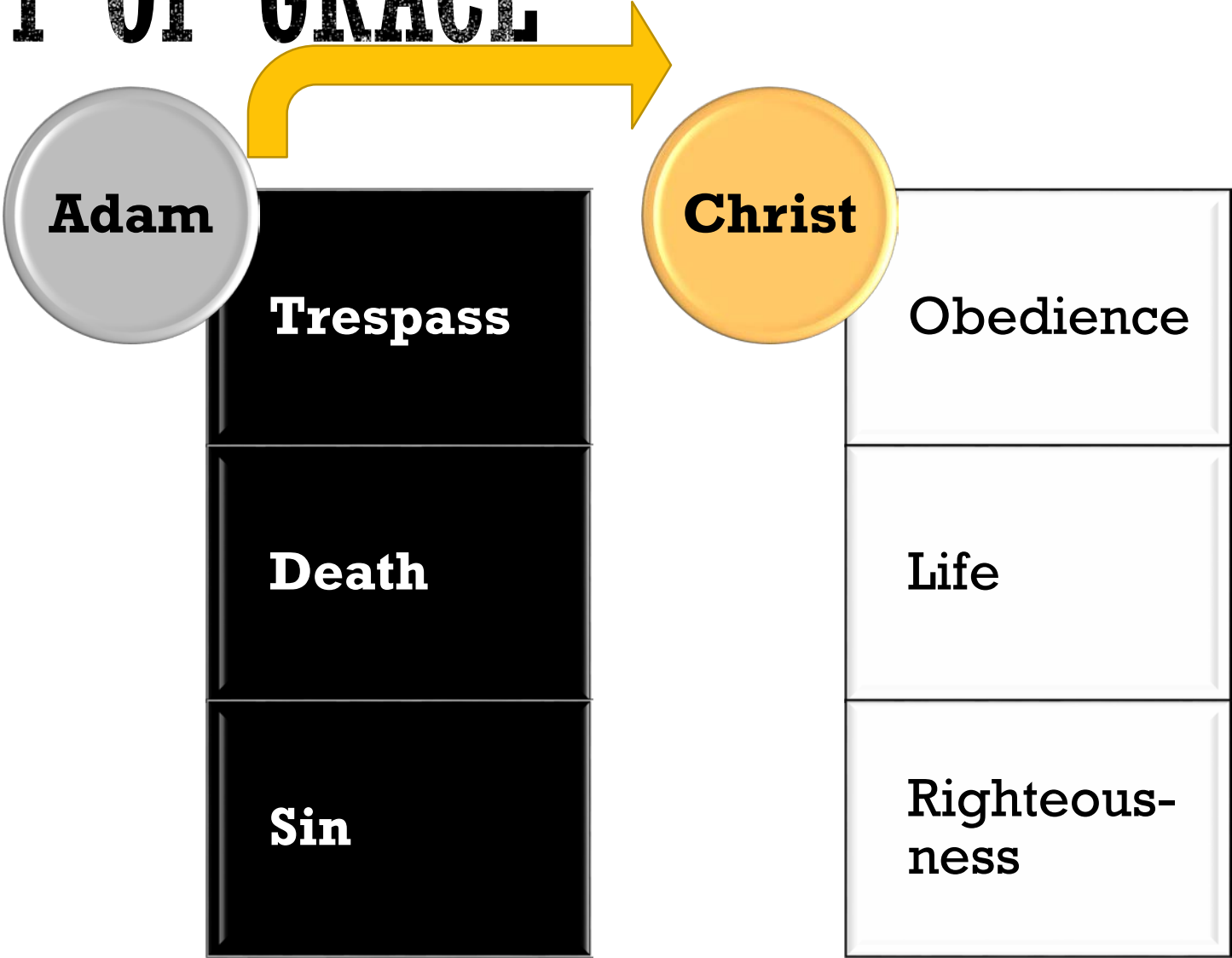


IF ADAM, THEN CHRIST!

- **Salvation is based on the same principle of covenantal headship**
- **God's plan of salvation in Christ further shows how God works by means of a covenant**



EFFECT OF GRACE



UNCONDITIONAL OR CONDITIONAL?

YES!



ASYMMETRICAL SYNERGISM





UNITY OF THE COVENANT



THEMATIC UNITY

- We see the unity in **Ephesians 2:12**:
- “remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the *covenants of promise*, having no hope and without God in the world.”



THEMATIC UNITY

- And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, *to be God to you and to your offspring after you*. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God. (Genesis 17.7-8)



THEMATIC UNITY

- Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. *I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God*, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. (Exodus 6:6-7)



THEMATIC UNITY

- ***I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.*** When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men (2 Samuel 7:14)
- But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. ***And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*** (Jeremiah 31:33)



THEMATIC UNITY

- And Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and all the people and the king that *they should be the LORD's people* (2 Chronicles 23:16)
- And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. *He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.* (Rev. 21:3)



ORGANIC UNITY

- The Unity of the Covenant of Grace is more than just the fact that the whole Bible speaks about the same subject



NOAHIC COVENANT



- But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.
(Genesis 6:18)



ABRAHAMIC COVENANT



- And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. (Genesis 17:7)



MOSAIC COVENANT



- “Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.” (Exodus 34:10)



DAVIDIC COVENANT



- You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'
(Psalm 89:3-4)



NEW COVENANT



- this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:28)



PROGRESSION



ORGANIC UNITY

- The Bible is not a series of unrelated events only tied together by the presence of God
- There is *one single way* in which God deals with His people, redeems sinners, and manifests his glory
- That way is simply shown in greater clarity as it *progresses*-- like the bud becomes the flower



APPLICATION

- **Admiration**
 - *That God would condescend to make a covenant with us.*
- **Examination**
 - *Are you still trying to fulfill the covenant of works?*
- **Trust and Reliance**



NEXT WEEK:

- The *Ordo Salutis*
- Fancy Latin for:
“*the order of salvation*”

