

Covenant Theology: from a Reformed Baptist Perspective

Introduction

1. What is covenant theology?

Answer: Covenant theology is a _____ that helps one interpret and understand the message of the Bible

Covenant theology is a system that is used for understanding the redemptive message of the Bible. This system seeks to allow the covenants of Scripture to be the _____ from which we understand divine revelation; promise and fulfillment.

2. What is a covenant?

Answer: A covenant is a _____ agreement between two parties where provisions and actions are set out and each party is bound to uphold the terms of the covenant.

"A covenant is a formal definition of relationship between two parties."-Van Dorn

"It is a declaration of His sovereign pleasure concerning the benefits that He will bestow on them, the communion they will have with Him, and the way and means by which this will be enjoyed by them."-Coxe

3. Why study covenant theology?

Answer 1: To better understand the _____ of the Bible

Whether you accept covenant theology or not you must agree that the covenants of Scripture play a huge part. The use of the word "covenant" and covenantal language run _____ the pages of Scripture.

(Gen 6:18; Gen 15:18; Psalm 25:14; Jer. 31:31; Luke 1:72; Eph. 2:12; Heb 7:22)

"Covenant theology is a study of the different covenants that God has made with man since the beginning of the world. The connection between God and the creature of His making, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, has always been defined in terms of covenants having different goals and terms. Since biblical history occurs entirely within these covenants, it is imperative to understand their nature and their role in order to correctly interpret the Scriptures...This approach to Scripture is a fundamental characteristic of reformed theology."-Denault

"The holy and wise God has always dealt with the children of men in a way of covenant."-Coxe

Answer 2: To grow as a _____ who can rightly divide the Word of Truth

We are all theologians, we should strive to be "_____ " ones.

"The doctrine of the covenant lies at the root of all true theology. It has been said that he who well understands the distinction between the covenant of works and the covenant of grace, is a master of divinity. I am persuaded that most mistakes which men make concerning the doctrines of Scripture are based upon fundamental errors with regard to the covenants of law and grace."-Spurgeon

Answer 3: To grow in your understanding of _____ revelation

The Scriptures are moving towards a _____ and this goal is progressively revealed through covenants.

"These covenants enter into the very nature, and pervade with their peculiar qualities, the whole system of divine truth. They have an intimate connection with each other and a common relation to a single purpose, being, in fact, so many successive stages in the unfolding of the scheme of divine grace."-Pink

Answer 4: To grow in seeing the _____ of the Scriptures

One must see the _____ and discontinuity of Scripture. Today it seems like discontinuity is over emphasized, so a study of the covenants will help correct this.

“God always deals with mankind the same way-on the basis of covenant...The Bible is not a bunch of disparate unrelated parts; the New Testament is not God’s “Plan B” (as if God made a big mistake); the same God speaks the same basic things in both Testaments.”-Van Dorn

Answer 5: To know how to _____ the gospel

The gospel comes to us in covenantal language. Therefore, unfamiliarity with the covenants will directly _____ one’s ability to explain and share the gospel.

“A true knowledge of the covenants is indispensable to a correct presentation of the gospel, for he who is ignorant of the fundamental difference which obtains between the covenant of works and the covenant of grace is utterly incompetent for evangelism...Since the covenants pertain to the very ‘rudiments of the doctrine of Christ,’ ignorance of them must cause obscurity to rest upon the whole gospel system.”-Pink

Answer 6: To _____ yourself for the day of Judgment

One needs to understand the purpose and distinction of _____ and _____, and this comes through a growing understanding of the covenants.

“And therefore while thou livest here below, it is thy duty, if thou wish thyself happy for the time to come, to give up thyself to the studying of these two covenants...”-Bunyan

Answer 7: To help you understand _____ place in redemptive history

As a believer you are part of the _____-if you do not understand the covenants, you will not really understand where you stand in terms of redemptive history

Answer 8: To help you better understand _____

The better you understand covenant theology the better you will understand the sacraments, the Lord’s Day, and the _____ principle. You will begin to see the reason why the church is to do certain things and avoid other things.

Answer 9: To grow in your understanding of God’s _____

God did not have to make covenants with man. So, all of the covenants reveal to us the grace of God in condescending to His creatures with the promise of more _____.

Answer 10: To know _____ more

All of covenants _____ to Christ (either directly or typologically).

“It is not that we think covenant is the central focus of Scripture. Christ is the central focus of Scripture. But covenant is the structure and language upon which the revelation of Jesus Christ comes to us and out of which we can make sense of Him. For Christ is not an abstract idea, but a person. This person relates personally to other persons. He does so through His oath, His covenant, His blood.”-Van Dorn