

Of God's Covenant (Romans 5:6-8)

Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 7, Paragraphs 1-3

Doctrine

The Doctrine of Covenant (Paragraph 1) – Gen. 17:7, Lk. 17:10

- God is **holy** – there is none like Him; He is perfect in every way.
- The distance between God and His creation is, by **nature**, great.
- The **creation** must obey and serve the Creator, the LORD God.
- It is impossible for mankind to **initiate** relationship with God.
- God initiates and keeps relationship with His chosen people by the means and pattern of **covenant** – a binding agreement.
- Mankind ‘could never have attained the reward of life but by some voluntary condescension on **God's** part’.
- God's covenant is initiated and maintained by **Himself**.

The Covenant of Grace (Paragraphs 2, 3) – Gen. 3:15, Gal. 3:21-24

- Adam did not keep the covenant of works, and so all creation, the man and woman, and all their posterity fell to **sin** and the curse.
- Man is **incapable** of being found in the state of innocence which Adam was in the Garden under the covenant of works.
- From the moment after the fall, God was pleased to make a Covenant of **Grace**, ‘wherein He freely offers unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ’.
- The Covenant of Grace is revealed in the **Gospel**, as proclaimed throughout redemption history – first to Adam as the seed of the woman, then throughout the patriarchs, the Old Covenant, and finally displayed in the person and work of the Lord Jesus.

- The justification of sinners has always been by **faith alone** on the basis of the merits of Christ.
- By **faith**, sinners graciously receive the perfect righteousness and accepted propitiation accomplished by the Lord Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit is **the Giver** of our faith, and indwells the believer – that they heartily live unto Christ and are assured of their justification.

The Covenant of Redemption (Paragraph 3) – 2. Tim. 1:9, Titus. 1:2

- The Covenant of Grace is ‘founded in that **eternal** covenant transaction that was between the Father and the Son [and the Spirit] about the redemption of the elect’.
- It is by the grace and will in this Covenant of **Redemption** that Christ came into the world to secure the redemption of His Bride.

Application:

- 1) Affectionate **Gratitude**: How incredible the holy love, the holy sacrifice, the holy grace, the holy mercy, the holy justice, the holy patience, the holy counsel of God!
- 2) **Sincerity** in our Covenants: That we recognize the depth of our responsibilities and obligations to our man-made covenants (marriage, church membership, vocational expectations, etc.).
- 3) Covenant **Faithfulness** to Christ, our Redeemer and Bridegroom: Submission to His Word out of reverence and love
- 4) Covenantal Reading of **Scripture**: As we read through Old and New Testaments, we confess both the continuity and distinctions of the Old and New Covenant as under the Covenant of Grace.