

Covenant Salvation

- I. The ERROR
 - A. Some believe the old covenant was salvation by works and the new salvation by grace.
 - B. Presbyterians and other reformed Catholics believe a conditional covenant with children.
 - 1. They presume without basis that circumcision of the old is baptism of the new.
 - 2. They adopt heresies as infant baptism, confirmation, sacraments, Godparents, etc.
 - C. Most Baptists and others believe Jesus made a covenant pinata of salvation and spiritual blessings for you to strike at with a personal decision in the flesh to get at the goodies.
 - D. Salvation is only by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12; 15:11; John 14:6).

- II. The ILLUSTRATION
 - A. A great father is good during life and good at death (Prov 13:22; 19:14; II Cor 12:14).
 - B. We usually call such written covenants the “last will and testament” of an individual.
 - C. Courts employ clerks and servants to find and inform beneficiaries of their inheritance.
 - D. The Judge – God the Father – determines the validity and legality of the covenant.
 - E. The Testator – Jesus the Son – died to put the testament or covenant into force.
 - F. The Executor – the Holy Ghost – applies the benefits to the account of each beneficiary.

- III. The TRUTH
 - A. There is only one covenant of salvation – the eternal covenant of grace – though there be several different dispensations and administrations and revelations of that one covenant.
 - B. Blood redemption is by the everlasting covenant of God (Heb 13:20-21; Isaiah 53:10-12).
 - C. As with all covenants or wills, they only go into force at the time of death (Heb 9:15-18).
 - D. The covenant transaction was between God and Christ rather than sinners (Heb 9:12,14).
 - E. The covenant benefits are only for those specially chosen by God (John 6:38; Eph 1:3-4).
 - F. God promised eternal life before the world began but recently revealed it (Titus 1:2-3).
 - G. This everlasting covenant includes regeneration and justification (Hebrews 8:10-12).

- IV. The GOSPEL
 - A. The gospel news of this Divine transaction is for our conscience (Heb 9:14; I Pet 3:21).
 - B. Note: only in your conscience can you be justified by the law or fall from grace (Gal 5:4).
 - C. The news to a natural man – spiritually dead in his sins – is mere foolishness (I Cor 2:14).
 - 1. There are no benefits for reprobates, for God cut them out of His glorious will.
 - 2. There are no conditions for reprobates, for they could not perform them anyway.
 - D. The news to a spiritual man – alive by regeneration – brings facts to light (II Tim 1:10).
 - 1. It brings the news God was in Christ reconciling us to Himself (II Cor 5:18-21).
 - 2. It brings things we can do to please our Father and enjoy true living (Ps 19:11).
 - E. The gospel brings joy, relief, and peace of knowing about the covenant (I Cor 1:18,24).

- V. The GLORY
 - A. David ascribed all his salvation and desire to an everlasting covenant (II Samuel 23:1-5).
 - B. God confirmed His promises with an oath for strong consolation and hope (Heb 6:16-20).
 - C. There is no worry about this covenant (Jer 33:20-21; 31:35-36; Is 54:9-10; Ps 89:34-37).
 - D. This covenant we remember and celebrate at the Lord’s Supper (Luk 22:20; I Cor 11:25).
 - E. If you wish to glimpse the glory of this covenant, then read Revelation 5:1-14 and 11:19.

- VI. The RESULT
 - A. Slothful and foolish saints may live fruitless lives by forgetting the covenant (II Pet 1:9).
 - B. The God of the everlasting covenant works His will in obedient saints (Hebrews 13:21).