

## THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION FOR INFANT BAPTISM

### I. God's Covenant of Grace

### II. God's dealings with the households

#### **I. Infant Baptism is rooted in God's covenant of grace**

##### A. Scripture is a *progressive revelation* of God's covenant of grace

1. God adds more and more detail in His ongoing work of revelation
2. To divide the Old and New Testament is misleading suggestion
3. The NT Church does not replace or eliminate the OT Church (Romans 11)

##### B. There is *continuity in God's covenant* from the pre- to the post-Pentecost

1. Same Biblical core truths are found in OT and NT
2. Therefore teaching on infant baptism *begins* in the OT.

##### C. What does Genesis and onward reveal?

###### 1. Gen. 3:15 - 6:18 – 12:3; 17:2, 7-8: *God establishes His covenant*

- a. God initiated the covenant
- b. God established it with 'generations'
- c. Gd keeps expanding the covenant

- John Calvin: *The Lord held to this orderly plan in administering the covenant of His mercy: as the day of full revelation approached with the passing of time, the more He increased each day the brightness of its manifestation. Accordingly, at the beginning with the first promise of salvation given to Adam, it glowed like a feeble spark. Then, as it was added to, the light grew in fullness, breaking forth increasingly its radiance more widely. At last, when all the clouds were dispersed, Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, fully illuminated the whole earth.*

2. God's promise to establish a 'new' covenant: Jeremiah 31:31-34

D. What has this to do with ‘infant baptism?’

## **II. Confirmed in God’s method of household baptisms**

A. The NT records 14 examples of baptism: *individuals and households*

B. What are households?

1. Compare Gen. 7:1; 45:18; Deut. 15:20; Joshua 7:24-25; 1 Tim. 3:4, 12

2. Both OT and NT authors *use ‘household’* in similar ways

C. Why is the NT ‘silent’ about the baptism of infants?

## **Applications**

A. The message of baptism of us and our children

B. The baptism sign and seal is intended to strengthen our faith in the Gospel