

# Covenant Theology



## INTRODUCTION

# Definition



- Covenant Theology deals with the history of humanity, and what the theme of that history is.
- Covenant Theology holds that redemption is the thread that unites and explains all of history. That is, from eternity past to eternity future, God created with redemption in mind. (Titus 1:2; 1Peter 1:19-20; Rev 13:8).
- Not all of Christianity agrees that redemption is the central thread of all.

# Versus Dispensationalism



- Dispensationalism is, in many respects, the opposite of Covenant Theology.
- Dispensationalism's core idea is that history is marked by a great disjunction between Israel as a nation and the church.
- Classical Dispensationalism teaches that the kingdom of heaven explains human history, with redemption being a part of this theme.

# The Spectrum



Dispensationalism	Covenant Theology
Disunity of Israel and Church	Unity of Israel and Church
Purpose of God is <i>doxological</i>	Purpose of God is <i>soteriological</i>
Theme of history is the kingdom (which may be earthly)	Theme of history is redemption
Emphasis on the individual	Emphasis on the corporate
Emphasis on the subjective and internal	Emphasis on the objective and external
Grace & Law separate	Grace & Law together

# Central Ideas



- A covenant is a sovereignly imposed agreement between God and man by which man might be blessed.
- All of human history is under one of two covenants: covenant of works or the covenant of grace.
- The covenant of grace fulfills the requirements of the covenant of works. Grace fulfills the law's demands.

# Implications



- All of history is planned by God, and will fulfill His purpose. Therefore, Covenant Theology most consistently implies a belief in God's sovereignty (Calvinism).
- All of humanity is either condemned for failing to live up to God's laws; or justified because Christ lived up to God's laws on their behalf.

# Implications



- Since the covenant of works is made with Adam as humanity's representative; and the covenant of grace is made with Christ as the elect's representative – all people are either condemned or saved based on representation.

# Applications



- When we start thinking of the goal of history as utopia rather than redemption, we are prone to discouragement.
- Your salvation is secured by God's sovereign covenant.