

BAPTIST CONFESSION OF 1689

Chapter 7.2

“The Covenant of Grace: Its Terms”

ROLE OF FAITH IN SALVATION

- Does faith *earn* salvation?
- Does faith *cause* salvation?
- Does faith *complete* salvation?

REVIEW

- **God is independent of His creation, and needs nothing. This is the doctrine of *aseity*.**
- **The creature cannot profit God. God cannot owe the creature anything. Man cannot earn any reward from God.**

REVIEW

- **Adam cannot earn permanence in the Garden. God, however, promises it to Adam on condition of obedience. This promise is called the covenant of works, because it hinged on Adam's obedience.**
- **Adam broke the covenant of works, resulting in the condemnation of the human race.**

PARAGRAPH 7.2

Moreover, man having brought himself under the curse of the law by his fall,

it pleased the Lord to make a covenant of grace,

wherein He freely offers unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ,

requiring of them faith in Him, that they may be saved;

and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life, His Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe.

POINTS OF 7.2

- **“The *curse...*” - What is a curse? How are we cursed?**
- **“...of the *law*” - How did Adam come under the curse of the law, when the law wasn't published until Moses?**
- **The covenant of grace (or, the promise of grace) is made in light of our curse because of Adam's sin. It's a promise to sinners.**

POINTS OF 7.2

- **To cure the curse of the covenant of works, God gives a covenant of grace. God still requires perfect works and obedience, but fulfills it for us by grace. The covenant of grace fulfills the requirements of the covenant of works.**
- **Note that this promise is of *grace*.**
- **God was *pleased* to offer this promise to sinners.**

POINTS OF 7.2

- **In this covenant of grace, God...**
 - ***freely* offers life and salvation in Christ**
 - ***requires* faith (this is a condition)**
 - ***gives faith* to those whom He has chosen**

APPLICATIONS

- **God never relaxed His standards. He still requires perfect obedience. In the gospel, He gives it to us.**
- **Faith is a condition to a promise. Therefore, we can say to anyone that God will forgive and save if they believe.**

APPLICATIONS

- **Faith:**
 - **Is required as a condition of forgiveness**
 - **Does not earn forgiveness.**
 - **Does not cause our salvation**
 - **Does not complete the work of Christ**
 - **Faith is a non-meritorious condition which is unconditionally granted to the elect.**