

# A Covenant Is A Covenant

Romans 10:9-10

Exodus 19:1-9

Romans 12:4-21



## God's Eternal Plan

- God's Eternal Plan IS **HIS** plan.
- Whatever God foreordains will/must happen - whether in nations, persons, or the universe! (Isaiah 46:8-10; 14:24-27; Daniel 4:35; Proverbs 19:21; 21:30)

## Pressing Forward into 2024

- D is for DISCIPLINE.

## Are We a Church? (1 Thess 1; 1 Corinthians 12; Eph 4; Eph 5; Romans 12)

- **Christ is BUILDING** His Church - He builds it with **PEOPLE**. (Matthew 16:18; Zechariah 6:12-13; 1 Corinthians 3:9)
  - ★ The Church is **the WORK of GOD** - NOT MAN.
  - ★ **THEREFORE**, God works in HIS PEOPLE "to will and do for HIS good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13) **Are you doing YOUR PLEASURE and is God working in you to DO HIS WORD?**
- **GOD GIFTS** each **and every** one of His special people to fit perfectly into a local BODY of disciples so that the BODY will fulfill HIS PURPOSE. (Ephesians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Romans 12:6-8; Matthew 25:15; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
- **God ADDS** each **and every** one of His special people to a local church to grow and mature. (1 Corinthians 12:18)
- (1 Thessalonians 1) Eight evidences that God is at work in a Church:
  - ① They receive the Word as the Word of God. (v. 6)
  - ② They become imitators of their leaders and Christ. (v. 6)
  - ③ They suffered tribulations, troubles, and persecution with joy. (v. 6)
  - ④ They become examples for others to follow. (vv. 7-9)
  - ⑤ They share the Word of God with others. (v. 8)
  - ⑥ They continually repent of their sins. (v. 9)
  - ⑦ They serve God. (v. 9)
  - ⑧ They long for the second coming of Christ. (v. 10)
- Are these evidences IN YOU and are they evident in OUR CHURCH?

## What is a Covenant?

- A COVENANT is SERIOUS. A COVENANT is SERIOUS.

- The first time we find this word is between GOD and NOAH in Genesis 6:18.
- The Hebrew word carries the Old Testament of a covenant - or “a cutting”. The word alludes to the practice of making a covenant by two parties cutting an animal in half, laying the two pieces on the side of a ditch and allowing the blood of the animal to flow in the ditch. Then BOTH parties walk through the blood and acknowledge that if they break their covenant may “this” death be upon THEM.
- We see this clearly in God’s covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15:8-21.
- In the Bible there are unilateral covenants and multilateral covenants.
  - Examples of unilateral covenants:
    - God’s covenant with NOAH, ABRAHAM, ISAAC, and JACOB.
  - Examples of multilateral covenants:
    - God’s covenant with His people at Mount Sinai. (Exodus 19-20)

### **God’s Covenant with His Special People** (Hebrews 8:8-12)

- In ETERNITY, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit entered into a covenant with each other to gather a special people that would praise Him forever.
- Each person of the Triune God has a part in this PURPOSE.
  - God the Father elected/chose. (Ephesians 1:3-4; Romans 8:28-30, 33; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Titus 1:1-2; 1 Peter 2:9)
  - God the Son redeemed them with His own blood. (Hebrews 9:12; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Revelation 5:9)
  - God the Spirit would bring the benefits of Christ’ work to ALL those who Christ died for. (John 3:5-8; 1 Corinthians 6:11)
- One might say that this covenant was a UNILATERAL covenant because it was base on what God (the triune God) would do.
- The covenant specified that as a result of the GODHEAD the chosen persons received the following benefits from God:
  - ① **GOD** would put His Laws into their minds.
  - ② **GOD** would write His Laws on their hearts.
  - ③ **GOD** would be their God.
  - ④ **GOD** would make them His people.
  - ⑤ **GOD** would cause them to KNOW Him.
  - ⑥ **GOD** would be merciful to them.
  - ⑦ **GOD** would not remember their sins.
- ★ **AGAIN, GOD** promised (covenanted) to DO all these things for ALL the people Christ died for - God’s special people. (John 6:37-40; 17:2, 6, 8-9, 11, 24)  
**GOD KEEPS HIS COVENANTS!**
- ★ **OBEDIENCE** is the evidence that God has done this in a person.
- Who are the recipients of this NEW COVENANT! (See handout: Who Is the Church?)
  - Those who are born from above. (John 3:1-8; Ephesians 2:4-6)

- Those who are given NEW hearts with God's Law written on it. (Ezekiel 36:26-27)
- Those who have received a NEW nature. (2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Peter 1:3-4)
- Those who have been saved from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)
- Those living and growing within a local church. (Ephesians 4:1-16; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Corinthians 12:1-27; Romans 12:4-21)

### **God's People and the Covenant at Sinai** (Exodus 19:1-8; 20:1-2)

- The people entered into a covenant with God. "ALL that the LORD has spoken we will do!" (Exodus 19:8)
- Creator/Redeemer (Exodus 20:1-2) Grace motivates us to OBEY.
- However, throughout their history God's people broke this covenant. (Jeremiah 11:10; 31:32; Deuteronomy 31:16, 20; Hebrews 8:9) **The people's covenant was ONLY WORDS! BUT GOD held them to THEIR covenant with Him.**

### **We Made a Covenant with Christ** (Romans 10:9)

- (v. 9) "IF you confess . . ."  
 → "IF" is conditional. **If there is no confession there is not salvation.**  
 → "confess" - "to say the same thing as another"; "to agree with"; "to declare openly" (Amos 3:3; Micah 6:8)  
 → One must be in full agreement! Consider the DEMONS -  
 - (James 2:19) They are in agreement that there is one God.  
 - (Mark 5:7; Luke 8:28) They know who Christ is!  
 - (Mark 5:6) They bow in the presence of Christ. (Philip 2:9-11)  
 - (Matthew 8:29) They know there is a day of judgment.  
 - (Matthew 8:29) They know that Christ will torment them.  
 - They know that they do not have a Saviour. (Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4)  
 - They **DO NOT CONFESS** (submit) Christ as **LORD**.
- (v. 9) "IF you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is LORD' **and** believe in your heart . . . you will be saved."  
 ➤ NOTE: Both faith and confession are necessary.  
 ➤ **Christ is no one's Saviour who does not submit to Him as Lord.**  
 ➤ "LORD" - "Ruler; Master, Owner."  
 ➤ No one can make Jesus their LORD! GOD has already made Jesus Lord over all! (Acts 2:36; 10:36) Our confession is our **submission** to Him.
- A confession that Jesus is LORD without DOING what He says is a **meaningless** statement! (Remember Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 6:46)
- **When we confess "Jesus is Lord" we enter into a covenant with Him and confess, "All that the LORD says we will do."**

### **We Are in Covenant with Each Other** (Romans 12:4-5)

- "belong to each other" - NOT to ourselves but to OTHERS.

- We are in covenant with one another because God put us into the same body and now we are obligated to serve one another. (Matthew 20:26-28)
- Not to serve one another (be SLAVES to each other) is to defy God.

## ALL Covenants Are Binding

- Christ taught, "Let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'no' be 'no'." (Matthew 5:37)
- God holds us to our promises/vows:
  - Deuteronomy 23:21-23
    - Do not be slow in fulfilling
    - **The LORD will demand it of you.**
    - You are guilty of sin
  - Leviticus 5:4-6
    - **Even thoughtlessly made**
    - Good and evil vows
    - **Aware or unaware** of making them (i.e. singing hymns)
  - Ecclesiastes 5:4-6
    - **Do not delay** in fulfilling
    - God has no pleasure in fools
    - Better not to make a vow
  - Numbers 30:1-2
    - Must do **everything** he said
  - Psalm 50:14
    - Offer to God thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.
  - Galatians 6:7-8
    - God will not be mocked

## Living Our Covenants

- First, we must submit in covenant to Christ as Lord. (Rom 10:9-10; **LUKE 9:23**)
  - Whatever Christ commands we must do. (Matthew 7:21-27; Luke 6:46; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14)
  - ✘ If there is no submission to Christ as Lord we will not submit to each other.
  - ★ Macedonians example: 2 Corinthians 8:5.
- We must submit to each other and serve one another. (Eph 5:21; Matt 20:28; Romans 12:4-5)
- How? - Remember 1 Thessalonians 1:3 –
  - ★ WORKS of faith - God given faith ALWAYS works to SERVE God and others.
  - ★ LABORS of love - God-given love ALWAYS works to SERVE God and others.
  - ★ ENDURANCE of hope - our enduring through troubles, tribulations, persecution will inspire others to do the same.
- Practicing the "one anothers" that God gave His Church to practice among each other. (See Handout: One Anothers)