

The 1689 Confession; Chapter 8 – “Of Christ the Mediator”, Message # 1 – “The Covenant of Redemption”, Presented in the Adult Sunday School Class, by Pastor Paul Rendall on December 22nd, 2019.

Paragraph 1 - It pleased God, (1) in His eternal purpose, (2) to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus , His only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them both, (3) to be the Mediator between God and man; the Prophet, Priest, and King; head and Savior of the Church the heir of all things, and judge of the world, (4) unto whom He did from all eternity give a people to be His seed and to be by Him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified. (5)

1. Isaiah 42: 1-7 2. 1 Peter 1: 20, 21 Isaiah 49: 1-6 3. 1st Timothy 2: 5

Acts 3: 22 Hebrews 5: 5 and 6 Psalm 2: 6 Luke 1: 33 Ephesians 1: 22 and 23 and

Chapter 5, verse 23 Hebrews 1: 2 Acts 17: 31

5. Romans 8: 30 John 17: 6 Isaiah 53: 10 Psalm 22: 30 1 Timothy 2: 6

Isaiah 55: 4 and 5 1 Corinthians 1: 30

1st – God has an Eternal Purpose which was drawn up by the Divine Trinity before the world began which is called the Covenant of Redemption.

Isaiah 42: 1-7 – “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights!” “I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.” “He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street.” “A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth.” “He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for His law.” “Thus says God the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it: I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.”

Now, we are told here in this prophetic revelation of the purposes of God the Father, that He would have all men take notice of His plans and purposes. Christ is called God’s servant whom He upholds, His Elect One in whom His soul delights. He would have the fullness of the Holy Spirit upon Him, and He would bring forth justice through His fulfilling of the law; that surely He could save the worst of Gentile sinners and bring them into favor with Himself. He would not cry out or raise His voice in His teaching in order to establish God’s will in their lives. Rather, that by the grace that He would purchase through His obedience and His sufferings, He would be able to apply His redemption to elect sinners to first bring them to Himself and to God, and then teach them where they were ignorant and heal their bruised and battered souls. He would not break them but rather by His grace He would work in them to convince them of what they should do. If they are smoking flax, He would not quench them, throw water, as it were, on all of their endeavors to do God’s will, but He would by His Spirit blow on them so that they

would burst into flames of devotion to God. “He increases their spiritual light and knowledge and supplies them with the oil of grace; trims, snuffs, and causes their lamps to burn brighter,” says John Gill. He would bring forth justice to victory; His fulfillment of the law so that God could be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Him. In His earthly ministry God would keep the Lord Jesus and give Him as a covenant for the people; to open blind eyes and to bring those out of the bondage and prison of sin, into the light of eternal life, and the ability to see spiritual truth.

God the Father and the Spirit would together hold Christ’s hand spiritually speaking. They would keep Him in all of His ways, and give Him as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles. Now all of this was planned in eternity past in the counsel of redemption; to give Christ as a covenant, to redeem all of God’s elect people. We could quote John 3: 16 here as well; that – “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.” This was God decreed plan from all of eternity; to give His Son as a covenant for all of His elect people, and to save them in time and space through the preaching of the gospel.

1st Peter 1: 20 and 21 – “He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”

Christ was foreordained before the foundation of the world. He was chosen and ordained by the Father according to the covenant made between themselves as Persons of the Godhead. There was counsel taken by them with each other over this all important matter of man’s salvation. This goes hand in hand with what the apostle Paul says in –

Titus 1: 1-3. “Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.”

So the Covenant of Redemption, which took place before time began, was where The Father promised the Son to save all of His elect through the work of His Son. The stipulations of this Covenant were – That if He would become flesh, and fulfill all the law, and stand surety in the place of all of God’s elect people in performing the righteous requirement of the law on their behalf, and then die on the cross for their sins, He would purchase them as God’s eternal inheritance and possession. This is what established the sure hope of eternal life to everyone who believes. Not what they would do in persevering in faith, but what Christ would do for them in obedience to God’s holy law, and suffer in their place; becoming in this way their Savior and Lord, which was completely fulfilled by Christ in His being born of the virgin and following that, fulfilling all righteousness.

Isaiah 49: 1-6 – “Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar!” “The LORD has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name.” “And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; in His quiver He has hidden Me.” “And He said to me, ‘You are My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.’” “Then I said, ‘I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; Yet surely my just reward is with the LORD, And my work with my God.’” “And now the LORD says, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel is gathered to Him (For I shall be

glorious in the eyes of the LORD, And My God shall be My strength), Indeed He says, It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.”

You can see here that the Father called the Son from the womb to the work of redemption. But this calling of Christ to this work was actually planned out in all of its details, from all eternity in the council of Redemption between the Persons of the Trinity. If this were not the case, the prophetic promises here, of what Christ would do, could not have been fulfilled in all of their details in the way that God had purposed that they be fulfilled. But they were planned in all of their details; that the Father would make Christ’s mouth like a sharp sword. That Christ would know the reality of being made a polished shaft; an arrow in God’s quiver to strike at all of God’s enemies by His righteous words and deeds and judgments, as He went about to fulfill God’s good purposes related to the salvation of the elect. The Lord the Spirit in full accord with the purpose of the Father, formed the Lord Jesus in the womb in order to bring Jacob back to Him, and so that all elect Israel, both Jew and Gentile, both the elect among physical Israel and all the elect among the Gentiles, all spiritual Israel, would be gathered to Him. This would be done by His becoming a Mediator between the Father and all of the elect people of God.

2nd – The Covenant of Redemption Differs from the Covenant of Grace

Thomas Brooks says in Vol. 5 of his Works, P. 350, in his treatise on the Covenant of Redemption: The Covenant of Redemption differs from the Covenant of Grace. It is true, the Covenant of Redemption is a Covenant of Grace, but it is not properly that covenant of grace which the Scripture hold out in opposition to the Covenant of Works; which; which I shall thus evidence: -

1st – “The Covenant of Redemption differs from the Covenant of Grace in regard the federates.” (Those covenanting together) In the Covenant of Redemption, it is God the Father and Jesus Christ that mutually covenant; but in the Covenant of Grace the confederates are God and believers.”