

Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) 2020-2021

Women's Thursday Bible Study #9

Prayer

Covenant of Grace (Q. 30-35)

Brief 'excursion' into basis for *covenant theology*: Review concept of covenant

1. between man and man. Gen. 21:27-31- initiated by one, set of obligations for both, sealed with sacrifice
2. between God and man- gracious condescending of Great God Gen. 2:15-17 Covenant of Works, God initiated, obligations with threat and promise. Man fell and the promise of the curses fulfilled. BUT within the curses is the first Gospel promise in Gen. 3:15

Paragraph from Joey Pipa - .."God says that on the basis of a deliverer who suffers, he will destroy Satan and restore his people to himself. The rest of the Bible is the unfolding of that promise. We might say that the framework of the covenant with its promise is the framework that ties the entire Bible together. This is called Covenant theology.

1. The promises of the Old and the New covenant are the same.
2. The benefits of the Old and the New are received in the same way, look at Rom. 4:1-9. (from Gen. 15:6 and Ps. 32:1-2)

YET we know there are differences. (bulk of this in Q. 34-35)

Q. 30 Doth God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

A. God doth not leave man to perish in the estate of sin and misery, into which they fell by the breach of the first covenant , commonly called the Covenant of Works; but of his mere love and mercy delivereth his elect out of it., and bringeth them into an estate of salvation by the second covenant , commonly called the Covenant of Grace. I Thess. 5:9

Gal. 3:10-12, 21

Tit. 3:4-7

Rom. 3:20-22

Q. 31 With whom was the Covenant of Grace made?

A. The Covenant of Grace was made with Christ as the second Adam, and in Him with all the elect as his seed. Gal. 3:16

Rom. 5:15-21 (all is qualified as to ones represented) . See I Cor. 15:21-23)

Is. 53:10-11

What does Eph. 1:4 reveal about when this covenant was made?

Q. 32 How is the grace of God manifested in the second covenant?

A. The grace of God is manifested in the second covenant, in that he freely provideth and offereth to sinners a Mediator, and life and salvation by him; and requiring faith as the condition of interest in him, promiseth and giveth his Holy Spirit to all his elect, to work in them that faith, with all other saving graces; and to enable them unto all holy obedience, as the evidence of truth of their faith and thankfulness of God, and as the way he hath appointed them for salvation.

Gen. 3:15 first Gospel promise of a redeemer

Isa. 42:6 (53:4-6)

Jn. 6:27; 3:16 and 1:12

I Jn. 5:11-12

Prov. 1:23 " I will pour out my spirit ."

II Cor. 4:13. Paul quotes Ps. 116:10 - same faith, wrought by the spirit

Gal. 5:22-23

Ezekiel 36:26-27

James 2:18, 22

II Cor. 5:14-15 Eph. 2:10

Let's discuss what is meant by each of these words: Grace

Mediator

Condition

Interest

How important is the work of the Holy Spirit?

David loved the law of God! Why should a Christian want to obey the law of God?

Q. 33 Was the Covenant of Grace always administered after one and the same manner?

A. The Covenant of Grace was not administered after the same manner, but the administrations of it under the Old Testament were different from those under the New. II Cor. 3:6-9

Salvation under the Covenant of Works is no longer possible.

It is a very common error today to think that the Jews were saved by works but after the Cross, Christians are saved by grace. WRONG.

The catechisms teaches the unity of the Old and the New under one covenant of grace. So how do we account for the many differences?

Q. 34 How was the Covenant of Grace administered in the Old Testament?

The Covenant of Grace was administered Under the Old Testament by promises, prophecies , sacrifices, circumcision, the Passover, and other types and ordinances, which did fore-signify Christ then to come, and were for that time sufficient to build up the elect in faith in the promised Messiah, by whom they then had full remission of sin, and eternal salvation.

Rom. 15:8-9

Acts 3:20,24

Heb. 10:1; 11:13

Rom. 4:11 Abraham received imputed righteousness by faith

I Cor. 5:7 Christ our Passover Lamb

Gal. 3:7-9, 14

What is meant by the word 'type'? What were the purposes of the promises, prophecies, types, sacrifices, and other ordinances?

So many prophecies - Gen. 49:10, Num. 24:17, Deut. 18:15; Ps. 2,22,45,110, Is. 9:6-7, 11:1-5; Zechariah. 9:9-10, Mal. 3:1, many more). Let's use the disease of leprosy - Lev. 13 - how make sense of it? Provides background to astounding Mat. 8:1-4

Smells, sights, bells, etc to prop up their faith. Analogous to children needing picture books

Q. 35 How is the Covenant of Grace administered in the New Testament?

A. Under the New Testament, when Christ the *substance* was exhibited, the same covenant of grace was and still is to be administered in the preaching of the Word, and the administration of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's supper; in which grace and salvation are held forth in more fullness, evidence, and efficacy, to all nations.

Mat. 28:19-20

I Cor. 11:23-26

II Cor. 3:6-11 (Paul) ministers of a more glorious new covenant - goes thru 4:6

Heb. 8:6, 10-13 /7:22

Heb. 9: 11-12, 15, 26,28

Heb. 10:9

Three meanings for the phrase "the New Testament"?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why does the catechism speak of Christ as this substance?

Christ is the substance or *the reality*, while the Old Testament types sacrifices etc. were only shadows pointing forward to Christ.

What are the main differences between the ordinances of the New Testament and those of the Old Testament? (taken from J. G. Vos's study of LC)

1. Fewer
2. Simpler
3. More spiritual
4. More effectual
5. More universal

What is the main point of similarity between the ordinances of the old testament and those of the New Testament?

One and the same covenant of _____!

Next week:

We will begin the section of questions(Q. 36-45) generally relating to the Mediator.

We may only cover through question 42 , but overall I would suggest you read all the questions and answers. Then read John 1 and Luke 1, and then any others of the proof texts substantiating the answers that you can