



Senior Adult Community  
Grace Fellowship Church

## SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Differing Beliefs in the Local Church

**SESSION 5 What are Covenant Theology Distinctives?**

# REVIEW & REMINDERS



## CLASS SESSIONS

1. How do we interpret the Bible?
2. What is God's role in salvation?
3. How do we find salvation?
4. How can I be sure of my salvation?
5. **What are Covenant theology distinctives?**



# INTRODUCTION

## Branches of Theology

Roman Catholic	Covenant	Methodism
Eastern Orthodox	Reformed	Lutheranism
Neo-Orthodox	Dispensational	Pentecostal
Liberal	New Covenant	Liberation



SESSION 5  
WHAT ARE COVENANT THEOLOGY  
DISTINCTIVES?



## IMPORTANT TERMS

**Calvinism** – a view that the sovereignty and glory of God comes before all else and is defined by 5 points of TULIP.

**Reformed** – any system of belief that traces its roots back to the Protestant Reformation.

**Covenant** – a framework for interpreting scripture through the grid of covenants.

**Dispensationalism** – a view of 7 unfolding eras with distinctive ways God administered His governance of the world.

**Creed** – A authoritative summary statement of religious belief.



# UNDERSTANDING COVENANT THEOLOGY

## Interpreting the Bible through 3 Divine Covenants

**Covenant of Redemption:** Eternal agreement within the Godhead in which the Father chose a people to save, appointed his Son to redeem them, and the Spirit applying this redeeming work to this elect people.

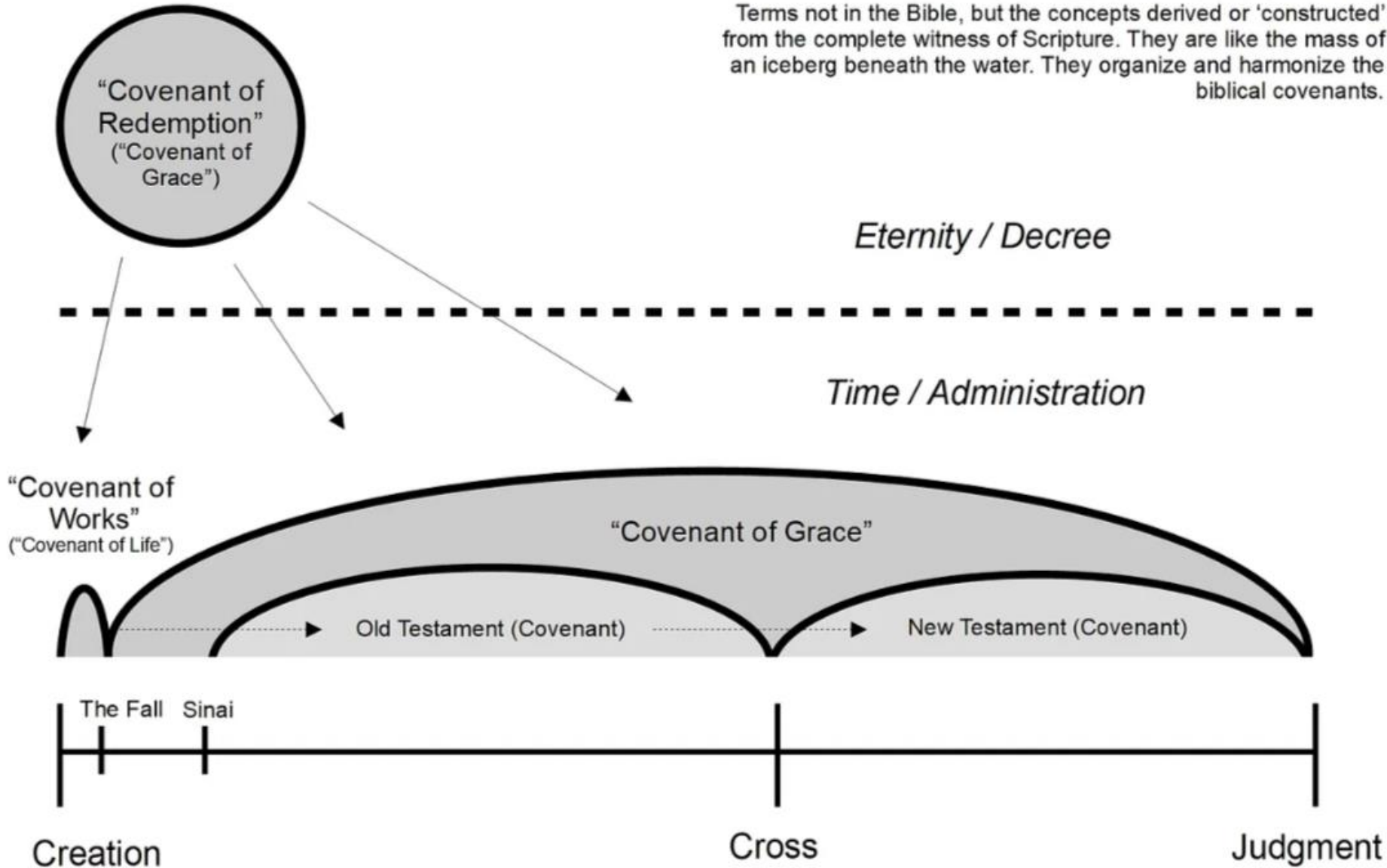
**Covenant of Works:** God's promise of eternal life for Adam's (federal head of mankind) obedience and death for disobedience.

**Covenant of Grace:** God's promise of eternal life for all who have faith in Jesus Christ who is the second Adam.



## The 'Construct' Covenants

Terms not in the Bible, but the concepts derived or 'constructed' from the complete witness of Scripture. They are like the mass of an iceberg beneath the water. They organize and harmonize the biblical covenants.





# CLAIMS OF COVENANT THEOLOGY

- Views the bible as a covenant book describing the divine-human relationship
- Centered on Jesus Christ and his redemptive work
- Unifies God's plan through the lens of the Old and New Covenants
- Unifies God's work of redeeming one people -(the elect) Israel/Church



# UNDERSTANDING REFORMED THEOLOGY

## Interpreting the Bible through 3 Divine Covenants

- The two main traditional protestant theologies descending from the Reformation are Reformed and Lutheran, with Anglicans also making claim.
- Reformed Theology refers to confessions of faith and formal church bodies, whereas Calvinism is a theology of doctrine.



## UNDERSTANDING REFORMED THEOLOGY

- To be **Calvinist** is to hold to the 5 points of Calvinism.
- To be **Covenantal** is to hold to the covenantal framework of the bible.
- To be **Confessional** is to hold to one of the historic confessions of the faith.
- To be **Reformed** is to be Calvinistic, covenantal, confessional, plus two other convictions: #1 the ordinary means of grace through corporate local church practices, and #2 the distinction between the law and the Gospel.



# UNDERSTANDING COVENANT THEOLOGY

What are the differences  
between Covenant Theology  
and Dispensationalism?



# REFLECTIONS

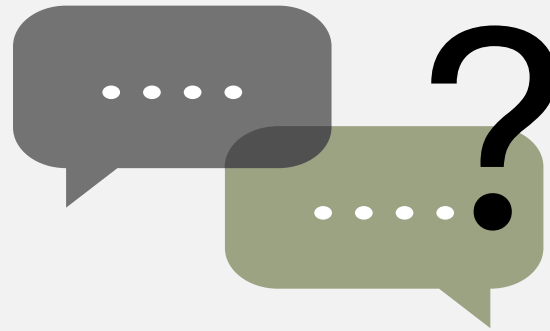


**NEXT WEEK – SESSION 6**

**What are Dispensational  
Theology Distinctives?**



# QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION



THE END OF SESSION 5

