

Work in our Hearts: Renewing the Covenant

The Objective - Recommit via covenant

- *Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing (9:38)*
- *All the people join with their brothers, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law that was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord and his rules and his statutes (10:29).*
- The people are making a covenant to walk in obedience before the law of the Lord

The People - Representing all the people

- *Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests. On the seals are the names of Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, Zedekiah... (9:38-10:1a)*
- 84 people sign this covenant coming from 3 groups of people
 - Civilian leadership
 - Spiritual leadership
 - Heads of families
- *The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding (10:28)*
- You have here, by name and by symbol, all the people of the covenant

The Obligations of the Covenant - Repentance through obedience

- What is repentance unto life?
 - Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sin, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.
- That is, as the people committed to, as we saw in verse 29, walking in God's law and observing and doing all the commandments of the Lord, they were not only recognizing their past failure to obey, but promising to seek to obey in the future
- Repentance is a turning from sin and a turning to God
 - Christian obedience is a response to grace, not a way to make God give you his grace
 - Christian obedience is a living out of God's favor, not a way to earn God's favor
 - *The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his countenance upon you, and smile sweetly*
- People promise obedience in 3 main areas here
 - These are not new commands, but the law of Moses restored and recommitted to
 - Family
 - *We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons (10:30).*
 - Sabbath
 - *And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day.*

And we will forego the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt (10:31).

- Tithes and Offerings
 - *We also take on ourselves the obligation to give yearly a third part of the shekel for the service of the house of our God: for the showbread, the regular grain offering, the regular burn offering, the Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed feasts, the holy things, and the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God (10:32).*

Covenant Keeper

- God has faithfully kept his end of every covenant he made with humanity
- And we, that is humanity, has, quite successfully and thoroughly, disobeyed the requirements of every covenant we ever made with God
- *But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom 5:15-21).*

Application - Covenant renewal for us

- What does covenant renewal look like for us?
- PCA Membership Q3 - "Do you now resolve and promise in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?"
- Lord's Supper