



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

905 Clearfield Street * Morehead, KY 40351 * (606)776-7089 * www.gracemorehead.org

COVENANT is Essential!

This message was preached on Sunday Morning, March 19, 2023

Ephesians 2:11-13

- 11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called **Uncircumcision** by that which is called the **Circumcision** in the flesh made by hands;
- 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:
- 13 **But now in Christ Jesus** ye who sometimes were far off are **made nigh by the blood of Christ**.

BELOVED: If you are interested in obtaining the BEST and RICHEST of God's provisions...then this is an essential revelation!

If you want to walk the way Jesus walked...do what Jesus did...if you want to enjoy the power of the early church...you need this revelation. As a matter of fact, it can't just be understanding...but rhema! It has to change the way you live and think!

PROBLEM: We live in a culture that are definitely strangers from the concept of covenant. It seems primitive or barbaric to us!

- * We understand contracts...sign on the dotted line. (that is a starting spot)
- * Many did the "blood brothers" thing as kids.
- * We actually have covenant terminology in our language.
EXAMPLE : Blood is thicker than water. **LITERAL:** "The blood of the covenant is thicker than the water of the womb."
- * We frown on gang activity, the mafia, etc...which obviously the things they do, as far as crime is bad, but killing members of their groups because they betray them is actually covenant-esque.
- * We are even grossed out by the activity of Indians in the wild west...the things that made them savages, were just them carrying out covenants they made with the white man.

We have actually become so civilized that we have civilized ourselves RIGHT OUT OF the mindset of God...the heart of God.

We have missed much of the message of the Word of God, not understanding covenant!

Your full understanding of salvation, holiness, healing, worship, deliverance and sanctification are based on your understanding of covenant.

NOW: If you have heard of the teaching of covenant relationships...you have thought in terms of the covenant between God and man!

WHICH is THE center piece of our covenants...

BUT God instituted covenants in the GARDEN (Genesis 1:26-30 – Edenic Covenant with man kind).

UNDERSTAND: The reason He instituted covenant is for us. Not to keep us under control, but help us understand HIS MIND, HIS HEART, HIS THOUGHTS towards us! It never stops! It is for our benefit, not His.

HOWEVER: When we do it right...it is for His benefit, not ours!

HERE IS THE DEAL: We have focused on the covenants God have made with man (which is good), but we think it stops there. “Just me and God!” “He’s all I need!”

BELOVED: We have forgotten that God has a body on this earth! If we are in covenant with Him...we are in covenant with them.

1 Corinthians 11:26-30

- 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.
27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.
29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, **not discerning the Lord's body.**
30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

Covenant Defined

BELOVED: How many people have the concept that God is a bully in the sky...waiting for us to mess us? God is relational...it is about relationship. He walked with Adam and Eve in the garden...nothing hindering their relationship.

When sin entered in...it wasn't the same! Sin got in the way...mankind had stepped away from the covenant and was not living in the curse of the covenant.

So, God began a journey to reunite man with Him...through the blood of His Son! Many covenants with many people...until the blood of Jesus (once and for all)

(We will step more into that probably next week).

PASTOR THAD'S DEFINITION: An intimate, intricate and binding relationship between two or more people that unites their strengths in order to eliminate their weaknesses.
God has all things...we are His body on the earth.

ANOTHER DEFINITION: It is an all-encompassing agreement between two parties with clearly outlined perimeters and promises. A mutual understanding between two persons to bind themselves together with specific obligations to fulfill!

How Important is Covenant to God?

You may be thinking... “Cool! Nice teaching, Pastor Thad. Good to know.”
But in the heart of God it is deeper and more significant than cool.

1 Corinthians 10:11 – “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

NOTICE: The things that happened to the Israelites in the wilderness were put in Scriptures FOR US...as an EXAMPLE!

NOW...their journey and destination is a picture of us ENTERING into God's promises. Whatever you are believing God for is a Promised Land.

Going from AMEN (Egypt) to THERE IT IS (Canaan).

One of the keys to moving into God's best in your life IS COVENANT...if you are stopping short of God's promises in your life, check COVENANT.

You will never move in by yourself!

1 Peter 3:7 – “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”

ZIG ZIGLAR: “You can have anything in life that you want, if you just help enough other people get what they want.”

THE CHILDREN of Israel had to have their minds RESET to covenant relationship before they could move in to their promises!
They couldn't go by themselves.

Moving in had to be as ONE...God and His people...NOT with a selfish (me first) mindset or motive.
REMEMBER: Gad and Reuben liked the land on the EAST side of the Jordan...and wanted it for them.
But Moses said, "HOW DARE YOU!"

They would move in ONLY with a covenant mindset. A mindset of being consumed with God and His people!

It was a process...but they had to get there and weed out the division.

In Numbers we see the first time they were getting ready to move into the Promised Land...but they were not ready.

1. **The people complained, critiqued and attacked God's leadership.**

Numbers 11:1 – "And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp."

This was just one episode, but they had complained SO MUCH that they just learned to wake up in the morning and complain!

Covenant doesn't complain...it brings fullness and answers.

2.) **The leadership were at odds.**

Obviously, Moses and Joshua were good. Honestly, I am not sure that Miriam and Aaron saw Joshua as the second in command...he was just Moses' assistant.

Numbers 12:1 – They got caught up in being judgmental...they didn't like Moses' wife!
That grew!

Numbers 12:2 – "And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it."

KEY: vs. 3 – "(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)"

All Moses wanted to do was yield to God and do what God wanted Him to do!

Miriam was stricken with leprosy.

BELOVED: Covenant doesn't attack or pick!

3.) **They couldn't even stand together.**

Numbers 13 is such an important passage of Scripture.

Is it a picture of covenant? Absolutely.

God sent in twelve men to the land...to come back with the same report, "Let's roll!"

HOWEVER: They couldn't even come back with the same report. They couldn't stand together towards the vision God had given to them.

Philippians 2:2-3

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

NOTE: The upper room didn't just happen because it was time...but because they were in ONE ACCORD.

They didn't get it...so they wandered!

BELOVED: How long are you going to wander? 40 more years?