

"II. The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his prosperity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience.

"III. Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace; wherein He freely offereth unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ; requiring of them faith in Him, that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life His Holy Spirit, to make them willing, and able to believe.

"VI . . . There are not therefore two covenants of grace, differing in substance, but one and the same, under various dispensations."

And in Article V of the Doctrinal Statement of Dallas Theological Seminary, we find the following:

"We believe that according to the "eternal purpose" of God (Eph. 3:11) salvation in the divine reckoning is always 'by grace, through faith', and rests upon the basis of the shed blood of Christ."

- (3) The continuity of the spiritual children of God throughout human history

All of the spiritual children of God in all dispensations have begun earthly existence as spiritually dead and morally corrupt, and have been made spiritually alive by God's grace through faith. They have all been born again into God's spiritual family; and whether they have looked forward to the coming of the Messiah or back to Christ and His finished work, they have all been part of the one redeemed people of God of all ages. This distinction between those who are spiritually alive and those who are spiritually dead is more basic than any other distinction, including those between Jew and Gentile, male and female, and free and slave, and ancient and modern.

- (4) The continuity of the spiritual significances of the central ordinances of the Old and New Dispensations
- (a) The spiritual significances of Circumcision and Baptism share certain similarities

Circumcision signified union with God and with His gracious blessings

- Genesis 12:3b -- "And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
-- Genesis 17:7, 11 -- "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. . . And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you."