

Chapter 7 – God’s Covenant

1. Though rational creatures are responsible to obey God as their Creator, the distance between God and these creatures is so great that they could never have attained the reward of life except by God’s voluntary condescension.

He has been pleased to express this through a covenant framework.¹

¹Luke 17:10; Job 35:7, 8.

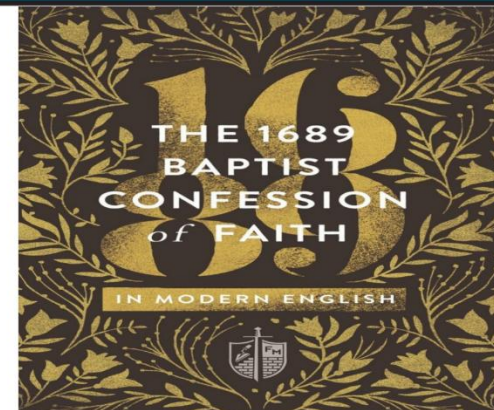
2. Since man brought himself under the curse of the law by his fall, it pleased the Lord to make a covenant of grace.²

In this covenant He freely offers to sinners life and salvation through Jesus Christ.

On their part He requires faith in Him, that they may be saved,³ and promises to give His Holy Spirit to all who are ordained to eternal life, to make them willing and able to believe.⁴

²Genesis 2:17; Galatians 3:10; Romans 3:20, 21. ³Romans 8:3; Mark 16:15, 16; John 3:16.

⁴Ezekiel 36:26, 27; John 6:44, 45; Psalms 110:3.



3. This covenant is revealed in the gospel. It was revealed first of all to Adam in the promise of salvation through the seed of the woman.⁵ After that, it was revealed step by step until the full revelation of it was completed in the New Testament.⁶ This covenant is based on the eternal covenant transaction between the Father and the Son concerning the redemption of the elect.⁷ Only through the grace of this covenant have those saved from among the descendants of fallen Adam obtained life and blessed immortality. Man is now utterly incapable of being accepted by God on the same terms on which Adam was accepted in his state of innocence.⁸

⁵Genesis 3:15. ⁶Hebrews 1:1.

⁷2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2;

⁸Hebrews 11:6, 13;

Romans 4:1, 2ff.; Acts 4:12; John 8:56.



THE BROADCASTER

A Monthly Publication of First Baptist Church of Mena

From The Pastor's Desk

.FBC Family,
Our next step in the order of salvation according to God’s Word will be sanctification. We have discussed election, effectual calling, regeneration, conversion and justification. This has been a journey of discovery and understanding as we consider the path that we travel as God brings us to a righteous standing before Him. Our salvation stands as a miraculous working of God that takes depraved and spiritually dead people and gives them new life through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. As we examine this next step, we will better understand what happens to us after we are saved. Those with genuine faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior are sanctified. This means to be made holy resulting from our union with Christ. We view sanctification in two distinct parts: definitive and progressive. We will look at these in greater detail to better comprehend how sanctification is applied to our entire lives and how we are transformed by it. Before we do, let’s take a look at the Scripture background for it. Paul speaks of sanctification in Romans chapter 6. *I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more*

lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. Romans 6:19-22 The definitive part of sanctification is what breaks us from the power of sin and established our status in our relationship with Christ. It is the initial work of sanctification to separate us from the world and join us to Christ. The next area, progressive sanctification, refers to the ongoing work of grace in our lives as God works to grow us more and more into the image of Christ. This part of sanctification is an ongoing work that continues for the remainder of our lives. What God intends to accomplish through sanctification is Christlikeness in us. The goal is a fully committed follower of Christ who walks in obedience to Christ’s commands while faithfully advancing the kingdom of God and bearing fruit. It can be summed up simply by what many of you have heard me say many times. Our endeavor in life is to know Christ better

today than we did yesterday and tomorrow better than we do today. Certainly, sanctification is a work of God in our lives to grow us spiritually to be more than what we are today. God designed, administers and applies the work of sanctification to our lives. It dispels the thought that we can improve ourselves and become more Christlike. Again, we look to Paul. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, *“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:30-31* Therefore, we can boast in our salvation that delivers sanctification that transforms us from what we are into what God wants us to be, but our boasting must be in God alone because only He can change us for the better. Although, sanctification will not be complete in this life, it will be fully accomplished when g home to be with Christ forever; this is glorification and it will be our next and last step in salvation.

God’s blessings to you all,

Bro. Jim Tennery

The basic structure of the relationship God has established with His people is the covenant. A covenant is usually thought of as a contract. While there surely are some similarities between covenants and contracts, there are also important differences. Both are binding agreements. Contracts are made from somewhat equal bargaining positions, and both parties are free not to sign the contract. A covenant is likewise an agreement.

However, covenants in the Bible are not usually between equals. Rather, they follow a pattern common to the ancient Near East suzerain-vassal treaties. Suzerain-vassal treaties (as seen among the Hittite kings) were made between a conquering king and the conquered. There was no negotiation between the parties. The first element of these covenants is the preamble, which lists the respective parties. [Exodus 20:2](#) begins with “I am the Lord your God.” God is the suzerain; the people of Israel are the vassals. The second element is the historical prologue. This section lists what the suzerain (or Lord) has done to deserve loyalty, such as bringing the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt. In theological terms, this is the section of grace. In the next section, the Lord lists what He will require of those He rules. In [Exodus 20](#), these are the Ten Commandments. Each of the commandments were considered morally binding on the entire covenant community. The final part of this type of covenant lists blessings and cursings. The Lord lists the benefits that He will bestow upon His vassals if they follow the stipulations of the covenant. An example of this is found in the fifth commandment. God promises the Israelites that their days will be long in the Promised Land if they honor their parents. The covenant also presents curses should the people fail in their responsibilities. God warns Israel that He will not hold them guiltless if they fail to honor His name. This basic pattern is evident in God’s covenants with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the covenant between Jesus and His church. In biblical times, covenants were ratified in blood. It was customary for both parties to the covenant to pass between dismembered animals, signifying their agreement to the terms of the covenant (see [Jer. 34:18](#)). We have an example of this kind of covenant in [Genesis 15:7-21](#).

Here, God made certain promises to Abraham, which were ratified by the sacrificing of animals. However in this case, God alone passes through the animals, indicating that He is binding Himself by a solemn oath to fulfill the covenant. The new covenant, the covenant of grace, was ratified by the shed blood of Christ upon the cross. At the heart of this covenant is God’s promise of redemption. God has not only promised to redeem all who put their trust in Christ, but has sealed and confirmed that promise with a most holy vow. We serve and worship a God who has pledged Himself to our full redemption.

Previously published in
[ESV Reformation Study Bible](#)
by Ligonier Ministries and on
their website [Ligonier.com](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Were excited to announce that the church calendar is now available on our website!

Check our Calendar for upcoming Activities

FBC CALENDAR

CLICK HERE!

Visit [firstbaptistchurchmena.com](#) to stay updated on all upcoming events, services, and community gatherings.

www.FiveDayBibleReading.com 2026 Edition	
Week Forty-one October 4-10	
Day 1:	Jeremiah 27-29, 24; James 4
Day 2:	Jeremiah 37, 21, 34; Psalm 79; James 5
Day 3:	Jeremiah 30, 33; 1 Peter 1
Day 4:	Jeremiah 38, 39, 52; 1 Peter 2
Day 5:	2 Kings 24-25; 2 Chr 36; Ps 126; 1 Pet 3
Week Forty-two October 11-17	
Day 1:	Lamentations 1-5; Ps 137; 1 Pet 4
Day 2:	Obadiah; Jer 40-42; Ps 147; 1 Pet 5
Day 3:	Jer 43, 44, 46; 2 Peter 1
Day 4:	Jer 47, 48, 49; Ps 80; 2 Peter 2
Day 5:	Jer 50-51; 2 Peter 3
Week Forty-three October 18-24	
Day 1:	Ezekiel 1-3; John 1
Day 2:	Ezekiel 4-6; Psalm 82; John 2
Day 3:	Ezekiel 7-9; John 3
Day 4:	Ezekiel 10-12; Psalm 83; John 4
Day 5:	Ezekiel 13-15; Psalm 136; John 5
Week Forty-four October 25-31	
Day 1:	Ezekiel 16-18; John 6
Day 2:	Ezekiel 19-21; Psalm 84; John 7
Day 3:	Ezekiel 22-24; Psalm 134; John 8
Day 4:	Ezekiel 25-27; Psalm 85; John 9
Day 5:	Ezekiel 28-30; John 10

I always approach a transition time with mixed feelings. As a pastor, each time that I moved from one church to another, I was saddened to leave the ministry of the one church, the people, the community, the familiar, but also excited to arrive on the new church field, anticipating new relationships, new experiences, and facing the challenges in the new ministry that I knew would arise.

I am experiencing that same feeling as I come to the end of leading the music ministry at Mena First Baptist. It has been a great privilege for me to serve the past twelve years as your Minister of Music. While Sheila and I will still be in the church, I’ve been thinking about the things I will miss – selecting the worship music for the Sunday service, printing the music and making notations for our accompanists and choir, rehearsing with them to prepare for the service, and then leading the congregation in worship.

I will miss preparing the special programs we would do with the choir at Easter and Christmas. I will miss daily fellowship in the office with the other staff and ministry leaders.

At the same time, there are things I am looking forward to. I need more time to rest without feeling the pressure that I need to get to the church office. I hope to be able to help Sheila with more of the responsibilities she has carried while caring for her parents and keeping up with things at home. I am also anticipating having more time to do some writing, trying to finish a book I started many years ago and never finished.

I’m not retiring from ministry. I hope to be able to do some pulpit supply for area churches and find new area of ministry within our church that will not require as much time and energy.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Minister of Music. Please continue to pray for Sheila and me as we navigate our senior years. We’ve never passed this way before. As many of you, we are having to adjust to failing health, weakened bodies, and learning that we can’t do what we used to do. But God gives us added grace for each day. We are blessed beyond measure.

As always, I have a song to share:

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater;
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase.
To added affliction He addeth His mercy;
To multiplies trials, His multiplies peace.
His love has no limit; His grace has no measure.
His pow’r has no boundary known unto man.
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!

 Blessed to Serve,
Bro. Vernon