

GOSPEL 101  
December 10, 2023  
Gospel Themes – Covenant

THESIS

Tim Keller: The main problem, then, in the Christian life is that we have not thought out the deep implications of the gospel, we have not “used” the gospel in and on all parts of our life... All of us, to some degree live around the truth of the gospel but do not “get” it. So the key to continual and deeper spiritual renewal and revival is the continual re-discovery of the gospel.<sup>1</sup>

REVIEW

OKAY(ISH): Jesus + X (good thing) = Happy

IDOL: Jesus – X (ultimate thing) = Despair

GOSPEL: Jesus – X = For me

KNOWN

PRIORITY: PAUL – Galatians 4:8-10

RESCUE: HAGAR – Genesis 16:1-13

LOVE: LEAH – Genesis 29:21-30, 31-35<sup>2</sup>

ORIGIN: CREATED AND KNOWN – Psalm 139

INTIMACY: ADAM KNEW EVE - Genesis 4:1

IN PART NOW / IN FULL TO COME – 1 Corinthians 13:12

COVENANT

SHARE

What are examples of merciful or sacrificial heroes in our context today?

COVENANT 101

Definition – A permanent, binding agreement between two parties whereby one party takes responsibility for both parties

Major Biblical Covenants<sup>3</sup> – with/through whom did God make

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from Tim Keller's article "The Centrality of the Gospel". Available in pdf by request. Send me an email at nperegoy@oflc.net.

<sup>2</sup> For more – download the transcript of a sermon by Tim Keller entitled, "The Girl Nobody Wanted", [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vWTib2GvpmHATkqawOMOGS\\_7PZFOH76v/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vWTib2GvpmHATkqawOMOGS_7PZFOH76v/view?usp=share_link)

<sup>3</sup> <https://bibleproject.com/articles/covenants-the-backbone-bible/>

5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 15:1-21

### CONTRACT 101

How is a contract different from a covenant?

What are types/categories of contracts in our culture today? (formal or informal)

### GOD'S COVENANT + OUR DISOBEDIENCE

Luke 15:11-32

- The Younger Son's Lifestyle

Our Temptations Today – Genesis 3

1. "Did God really say...?"      Doubt God's Word
2. "It's not that bad"              Doubt the consequences
3. "It'll be good for you"        Promise of a false reward

Israel as an Unfaithful Spouse

1 Chronicles 5:25 - But they were unfaithful to the God of their ancestors and prostituted themselves to the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them.  
NIV

Hosea 9:1 - Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples; for you have played the whore, forsaking your God. You have loved a prostitute's wages on all threshing floors.

Psalm 73:27 - For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

### GOD'S COVENANT + OUR OBEDIENCE

Luke 15:11-32

- The Younger Son's Oath
- The Older Son's List

"And now, in one hour's time, I will be out there again. I will raise my eyes and look down that corridor - 4 feet wide, *with 10 lonely seconds to justify my whole existence*. But will I?"  
Harold Abrahams in *Chariots of Fire*

## Draw Covenant Triangle<sup>4</sup>

Reflect: In what ways am I "running the triangle backward" to find my identity through my obedience and performance?

### GOD'S COVENANT AND HIS OBEDIENCE

When Edward VIII fell in love with American divorcée Wallis Simpson it was an affair shocked a nation and threw Britain's monarch into a constitutional crisis. Due to strong opposition from the church and government over their marriage, Edward chose to abdicate the throne. He famously proclaimed his love for Simpson as he addressed the nation in 1936. "I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as king as I would wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love," he said in his abdication speech. Choosing love over kingship, the Duke of Windsor spent most of his life outside the royal family as the couple married and settled in France.<sup>5</sup>

Hebrews 9:11-22 (9:23-28)

How does he mediate a new covenant?

### BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR FAITHFULNESS AND UNFAITHFULNESS TODAY?

- If we cannot feel forgiven after a sin or failure until we have spent a great deal of time in misery and pain, we may be basing our acceptance with God on how much we have groveled, beaten ourselves up, and made ourselves miserable.
- If we are proud and harsh toward others, we may be basing our acceptance with God on moral standards that we believe we are fulfilling
- If we feel like failures, filled with low self-esteem, we may be basing our acceptance with God on moral standards that we believe we are not fulfilling.<sup>6</sup>

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2 Timothy 2:11, 13 - The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we are faithless, he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://vimeo.com/324254143>. Password: OnMission

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.townandcountrymag.com/leisure/arts-and-culture/news/g3233/greatest-love-stories-in-history/>

<sup>6</sup> *Tim Keller's, Gospel in Life, p. 167.*

## REVIEW TOGETHER

What's one thing that stands out to you from our time together today?  
(Choose one: comforting, convicting, confusing, curious)

## QUESTIONS?

## UPCOMING

Gospel Themes – Kingdom