

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Five

Five Part Covenant

The covenant of redemption, also known as covenant of grace, set forth in Rom. 8:29, 30 is a five part covenant: "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." The five parts are foreknow, predestinate, called, justified, and glorified. God does the foreknowing, predestinating, calling, justifying, and glorifying. It is all his work. Man does not do any of the work.

As we have otherwise shown there are five deaths taught in the scriptures: death of the body, death in trespasses and sins, second or eternal death, death to fellowship, and death to sin. The covenant of redemption overcomes the first four deaths and establishes the fifth death. The centerpiece of the covenant of redemption is the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Corporeal death or death of the body is ultimately overcome by the resurrection of the dead at the last day when God fully and completely glorifies the elect.

The bondage of death in trespasses and sins is overcome when we are effectually called into Spiritual life by the still small voice of Christ who quickens us to life. The sin nature of the flesh is ultimately destroyed in the resurrection or glorification.

The second or eternal death was overcome for the elect when Christ justified us by his atoning sacrifice for us on the cross. By Christ atoning sacrifice the wrath of God because of our sins was satisfied and no more charge can be made against the elect: Rom. 8:33, "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

The death to fellowship with God is overcome by Christ atoning sacrifice in justifying us and through the effectual calling into spiritual life which enables us to

receive the things of the Spirit of God and to obey God and to walk by faith according to the word of God. This does not mean that we will always walk by faith and have fellowship with God in this life, but we have the ability to walk by faith after the new birth and in the Glory World, we will have continual fellowship with God.

Being dead to sin is established by the covenant of redemption. All five parts of the covenant bring us to the position where sin can no longer have a condemning effect upon us. Thus thru the covenant of redemption we are dead to the condemning effects of sin.

The covenant of redemption is not only a covenant thru which we receive life, but it is also a covenant thru which death is overcome.