

Reformation Sunday 2022 – October 30, 2022

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 - The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

A contract is an agreement between two parties. Each party is in a position to negotiate.

A covenant is a promise that is given by one party to another.

Genesis 3: 15 – God to the serpent - He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.

Genesis 9: 11 – God to Noah - Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.

Genesis 12: 2 – God to Abraham - I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Genesis 28: 15 – God to Jacob – I am with you and will keep you wherever you go; I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

Leviticus 4: 31, 35 – Thus the priest shall make atonement on your behalf for the sin that you have committed, and you shall be forgiven.

Leviticus 16: 22 – God to Moses – The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a barren region.

2 Samuel 7: 16 – God to David – Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Luke 22: 20 – This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

32-33 - It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD.

33 - I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.

33 - I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 - I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Psalm: Psalm 46

1 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 - Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea.

When have you experienced God's being your refuge, strength, and very present help?

10 - "Be still, then, and know that I am God."

Cf. representative from Wells Fargo credit card – "Just relax."

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

20 - No human being will be justified in his sight by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21-22 - But now . . . the righteousness of God has been disclosed . . . the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

24-25 - They are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith.

25 - He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed.

26 - It was to prove that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

28 - A person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Grace is God's Riches At Christ's Expense

G – God's Gift

R – Received by Faith

A – Available to All

C – Comes through Christ

E – Extends for Eternity

John 8:31-36

31-32 - Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

33 - They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

What the Jews were saying was simply not true. They were deluding themselves. They had been slaves at many times in their lives – to the Egyptians, the Syrians, the Assyrians, and the Babylonians. And at the time they were speaking, they were occupied by Rome.

Map showing Israel's incredibly strategic location.

Have you ever made a statement that simply was not true – you were deluding yourself?

34, 36 - Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

Sin is not just what I do. It is what I am in bondage to.

Cf. LBW Brief Order – "We are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves."

If sin was just something I do, all I would need is a good example and a pep talk. Since it is what I am in bondage to, I need a Savior.