



Doctrine: Dispensations & Covenants
From sermon 10.13.19

Read *Ephesians 3:1-5*

Questions, Answers, and Review from Sunday's sermon: the doctrines of dispensations and covenants are vital, controversial, and sometimes complex. The church has divided over them and often required believers/churches/denominations to be in one camp or the other. Both are needed (both are somewhat believed by both). We have been given our own stewardship and will be held accountable for what we did and how we served.

What is a dispensation? A God-ordained period of time/era/age. In it, God revealed something about Himself and gave man a charge to obey or follow. Each came with unique blessings and also consequences for disobedience/failure. Most are still in place and restrain sin (for now).

Why is the doctrine so important? Foundational for the Interpretation of Scripture, especially Prophecy. Otherwise, it becomes a jumbled mess of allegory and symbolism. It Keeps Israel as Israel and the Church as the Church. [consistency in hermeneutics. Why change from book to book?]

What are the 7 Commonly held Dispensations?

- Innocence See *Genesis 2:21-25*
- Conscience
- Human Government
- Patriarch/Promise See *Genesis 12:2-3*
- Law
- Grace See *John 1:17 & Romans 6:14*
- Kingdom

[Charley believes at least 2 more. The life and time of Jesus on earth. The Tribulation.]

What are some of the problems that have occurred in Dispensational Theology?

- Freedom from the Law = license to sin. See *Galatians 5:13*
- Dismissal of Scripture See *2 Timothy 3:16-17*
- Setting Dates and Times: End of the world, Christ's return, Identity of the Beast (666)

What is a Covenant? A promise between God and man

What is Replacement Theology? Believing that, due to their rejection of Christ, the Jews have been replaced by the Church in all the Old Testament Promises/Covenants. Danger in this?

What are the 8 commonly held Biblical Covenants? With whom was it made? Briefly, what did it promise? And, was it Conditional or Unconditional?

- Edenic—Adam/life for obedience/death for disobedience/Conditional
- Adamic—Adam & Offspring/hard life/death/conflict/Satan/Unconditional
- Noahic—Noah & Man/no more flood/death penalty/Unconditional
- Abrahamic—Abraham/Israel/great nation/blessing/lineage/Unconditional
- Mosaic—Israel/the Law of God/Unconditional
- Palestinian—Israel/land from Nile to Euphrates/forever homeland/Unconditional*
- Davidic—David always have a rightful king/heir/Unconditional
- New Covenant—Israel/Gentiles/Life through faith in Christ/both Conditional and unconditional.