

Sunday School Class Syllabus Fall '24

1st Presbyterian Church in Whitefish, MT

Course Title: Introduction to a Biblical Theology of the Covenants

When: 9:00 - 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall

Instructor: Rev. Benjamin Melli

Audience: All ages welcome, class will have lecture and time for question and answer

Requirements:

- Bible (ESV, NIV, NRSV, NASB, Holman, KJV, NKJV)
- Paper and pen
- Westminster Confession of Faith (Printouts will be available)

Nomenclature: Biblical Theology 101

Purpose:

To further educate and form in the church a deeper appreciation, knowledge, and rest in our relationship with our covenantal Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This class will also help explain the nature of the sacraments, provide a history of salvation, and further the conversation of the role of the Church in our community. Specifically, this will be taught from the rubric of the reformed protestant tradition utilizing the Westminster Confession of Faith and other helpful creeds and confessions.

Expected Outline of Content:

- I. Prolegomena (10/27)
 - A. Biblical/Systematic Theology distinction
 - B. General/Special Revelation (WCF. Ch. 1)
 1. Exposition 2 Tim. 3:16
 2. Exposition Hebrews 1:1-5
 - C. Reformed Hermeneutics
 1. Exposition of Luke 24:13-35
 2. O.T. Model (Ian Duguid) framework
2. Types of Covenants (11/3)
 - A. Two Covenant Theology (WCF. Ch. 7)
 1. Adam's Covenant (WCF. 19)
 2. Exposition of Genesis 1-4
 3. The Temple as Garden
 - B. Covenant of Grace
 1. Genesis 3:25
 2. New Adam Rom. 5

- C. Noah's Covenant
 - 1. Gen. 9-11
 - 2. God's plan for the redemption of earth

- 3. Abrahamic Covenant (11/10)
 - A. A specific People (Gen. 12)
 - B. A specific Sign (Gen. 15)
 - 1. Sign and Seal
 - 2. N.T. Application (sacraments) (WCF. Ch. 27)
 - C. A specific Promise (Gen. 17)

- 4. Mosaic Covenant (The Law) (11/17)
 - A. Exodus 20, Deut. 5 (WCF. 19:2-7)
 - B. The Three Uses of the Law (Luther/Calvin)
 - 1. Character of God
 - 2. Man's standard
 - 3. Ethical code for Kingdom: Principles for today

- 5. Davidic Covenant (11/24)
 - A. Exposition of 2 Samuel 7
 - B. Three offices in the O.T.
 - 1. Prophet, Priest, King
 - 2. The Temple as God's Presence
 - C. The Kingdom of God: the promise of a new Covenant
 - 1. Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 36: 26, 11:19, Isaiah 43
 - 2. Heb. 8:10

- 6. The New Covenant (12/1)
 - A. Matthew 26
 - B. O.T. Promises united in Christ
 - 1. 1 Cor. 1
 - 2. Rom. 11
 - C. Signs and Seals (WCF. Ch. 28, 29)
 - 1. Col. 2
 - 2. Acts 11
 - D. Practical Applications for our church today
 - 1. Short History of dispensational theology
 - 2. Two Kingdom theology
 - 3. The Temple Expanding

Resources Referenced:

- Bavinck, Hermon: *"Reformed Dogmatics Vol. 1"*
- Duguid, Ian: *"Is Jesus in the Old Testament?: Basics of Faith Series"*
- Robertson, O. Palmer: *"The Christ of the Covenants"*