

## Exodus 24:3-8 – Covenant & Community, Part 2

### Introduction

1. Gate City Baptist Church Membership Covenant
2. Last Week: Our God is a Covenantal God
  - a. The Father Chose a people in eternity past
  - b. The Son agreed to redeem this people
  - c. The Holy Spirit consented to apply the work of redemption
  - d. God established a covenant of works and grace with man to accomplish the covenant of redemption – through a Seed of the woman, through Abraham, through David, who is Jesus
3. This Week: God’s People are a Covenant People
  - a. When the Lord calls a people to Himself from out of the world, He formulates a community in covenant – the Church
  - b. The Church is a Covenantal Community, Covenantal People
  - c. God’s covenantal people strive together and contend for the Gospel in the world, pushing back the darkness, remaining unified together by the grace of our Lord and Savior

### God’s People Respond To God’s Covenant (Exodus 24:3-8)

1. Moses builds pillars, offers sacrifices and offering to the Lord
2. The people devote themselves as a covenant community
3. EX: Noah – built an altar to the Lord, a worshipful, sacrificial remembrance of the covenant
4. EX: Abram – built an altar to the Lord, a worshipful, sacrificial remembrance of the covenant
5. Moses – built an altar at the foot of the mountain and 2 pillars, a worshipful, sacrificial remembrance of the covenant

### Objections to Covenants, Oaths, and Vows

1. Are not oaths forbidden in the Bible? Should not our “Yes” be “Yes” and our “No” be “No”? (**Matt 5:34-37, Jam 5:12**)
2. The Bible seems to commend oath taking and vows (David - **Psalms 132:11**, Paul – **Acts 18:18**, John - **Revelation 10:5-6**)
3. Jesus’ and James’ point: Do not make foolish, reckless oaths – God is omnipresent, so do not think you can walk away from your vow
4. Swearing by things God has created is no less than swearing an oath to the One who created it all
5. The Lord wants His people to be in covenant and take those vows they enter into seriously
6. The Bible does not say, “Thou shalt make a church covenant” & nowhere does the Bible command to sign marriage licenses or exchange wedding rings
7. The Bible infers church covenants as a local commitment of church membership to each other and to God

8. The Church is created by Christ’s call, not the leadership of a pastor or a presbytery
9. We come together with common commitments and pledge to be the church for each other & to the world, unto the glory of God

### Church Covenants Are A Humble Part of the History of the Church

1. A letter from Pliny the Younger to Emperor Trajan (112 A.D.)
  - a. The Christian community made oaths together
2. 1649 – John Cotton, Richard Mather, and Ralph Partridge: The visible church comes together as a community to be the church through covenant
3. 1500’s – John Robinson, Pastor to the Pilgrims: A church is a people in covenant with one another
4. Under a covenant, we lovingly submit to one another – this is a humbling act (Examples: Abraham, Job, David)
  - a. A people unitedly professing Jesus Christ and then professedly enter into God’s covenant – this is a humbling
5. The Puritans saw Church Covenants as Vital to the BEING of a Church – binds us as family
6. A Essence of a Church Covenant: We are the Lord’s and we belong together

### The Scriptural Basis For A Covenanting People

1. Genesis 4:25-26 – Men began to call upon the name of the Lord, or literally *At that time began men to call on themselves by the name of the Lord*
  - a. They came together to worship the Lord, associating themselves with His name (Ex: Marriage – wives, a new name)
  - b. We are united together, committed to one another with God as our Father and we are all brethren
2. Ezekiel 20:7-8, Exodus 19:7-8 – God reestablished the covenant with Israel that had fallen into corruption/compromise
  - a. The *Church of the Wilderness* was in covenant with God and one another for 40 years (**Acts 7:37-38**)
3. Deuteronomy 26:16-19 – A new generation of the congregation renewed the covenant before they entered the Promised Land
4. Kings and Prophets called on God’s people to renew the covenant with God and one another (**Josiah in 2 Chron 34**)
5. Acts 2:42 – The early church added Gentiles through covenant: They joined (or cleaved) together to the Lord and one another
6. Acts 9:26 – Paul covenanted with the Disciples – cleaved (**See Matthew 19:5**)
7. Our Covenanting together is having the Father as our Benefactor, the Son as our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit as our Sanctifier – and WE, in unity contending for the truth, preserving the purity of the Church