

Sunday School: April 1, 2018 **Reformed Worship is a Covenant Renewal**

Review:

When we deviate from prescribed worship, we fall into idolatry.

2 weeks ago we saw that **Worship is Covenantal**: a covenant is a sovereign bond in blood; a sovereign enters into a relationship with a subordinate; the sovereign promises certain things, and the subordinate has obligations. We saw that this covenant is confirmed with a sacrifice, and we looked at Genesis 15, where God passed between the pieces, promising to take the curses for man's failure to keep the covenant.

We briefly looked at the Covenant of Works (God's covenant with Adam, whereby Adam was to obey perfectly in order to receive Life)

We briefly looked at the Covenant of Grace (God will fulfil the Covenant of Works on our behalf – through Jesus)

Last week we looked at **Worship as Covenant Dialogue**. We saw that every element of worship is God speaking, or us responding. (*See diagram in the handout "Worship as Covenant Dialogue"*). We saw that worship is shaped by covenant.

Today we will look at Worship as Covenant Renewal.

Exodus 24.

Context: the people of God have been delivered from bondage.

Exodus 19 – 23 – the Book of the Covenant – God gave the terms of the Covenant

Exodus 24 – the Covenant is confirmed

2 parts:

(1) Exodus 24:1-11 The Covenant Confirmed

This is a typical worship service: see the elements

24:1-2 God calls the people "Come up to the LORD" (Moses, the high priest, his 2 assisting sons, and 70 elders as representatives of the people)

24:3-5 There is an obstacle to the people coming before God: *sin*. Sin must be dealt with, so there are sacrifices.

24:5-6 The people are purified

24:6-8 The terms of the covenant are presented, and the people accept, entering into the covenant.

24:7 The covenant is read to the people (today we read the Bible as the book of the covenant)

Covenant worship shapes several things:

Who is the audience? God!!!

What is our motivation? To please Him, to serve Him.

We must be God-centered and man-oriented, NOT man-centered and God-oriented.

Much of what passes as worship in churches today is Bible study with singing.

24:9-11 Called to fellowship with God; they had a fellowship meal on the mountain. They saw God (His feet), but God didn't strike them down.

(2) Exodus 24:12-18

God sets forth HOW we can come to God.

In the fire / cloud / voice, we see God is transcendent, high, lifted up, beyond us, yet comes into our midst. The only way to approach God is through a mediator; here it is Moses. Today, Jesus is the chosen mediator. The mediator brings God's Word and God's covenant conditions.