“A Covenant Previously Ratified by God”

Intro: From the Scripture Paul proved that Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation was ______________ by faith and not by works of the Law and thus, that every true child of God whether they be Jew or Gentile, whether they lived under the Old Covenant or the New, all are and always have been justified by God through the same means: ______ ________ alone.

A. Here, in this morning’s text we study as Paul shows that the _______ of Moses did ______ replace nor ______________ God’s covenant with Abraham.

I. To illustrate that the promises God made to Abraham had _____ been annulled or _ ______________ by the Law Paul employed a common example found in the way humans relate.

A. Referring to a document that would be like a last will and testament Paul writes that even though such a document __________ expresses a _______ desire “yet when it has been ratified (signed and sealed), no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it.”

1. The reasoning is this: if this is true of the covenants of men, how __________ ______________ of the covenants of God? If God ratified a covenant of His own then it can______ be _______ ______________ nor altered.

B. _______ can a covenant that God Himself ratified to the benefit of Abraham be annulled or modified? __ __________ and so, neither did God annul or modify His covenant with Abraham and neither then can men, which was what the Judaizers were trying to do!

II. The undeniable and inalterable ______________ which God made to Abraham He also, at the very same time, promised ____ Abraham’s __________.

A. Paul made it clear that “the ____________” which God spoke “to Abraham and to his seed” were spoken not to his “seeds’, as referring to many, but rather ___ ________,” to Abraham’s “seed, that is, ____________.”

B. The promise applied to Christ then is this: Gen 15:5, “Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your ____________ be.’” But, Christ Jesus didn’t have any descendants, did He? Yes, for He is the firstborn among many brethren (cf. Ro. 8:29). Carol Ruvolo writes, “Those who share Abraham’s ____________ in God’s promise and are thereby justified in God’s sight make up the people promised ___ ____________. That group of people, spiritual descendants of Abraham, will, as Paul has emphasized all through Galatians, include both Jews and Gentiles.” Amen.
III. In last ratifying His promises to Abraham 430 years before the giving the Law to Moses, the Abrahamic Covenant of God stood being in ____ ________ invalidated by the Law. God’s Law did not _______________ God’s promises to Abraham and his seed.

A. The Judaizers could not argue saying that the Law superseded God’s Abrahamic ______________ for God ratified those promises not to the nation, but ____ Abraham and _______________ his seed long before He gave the Law, which He gave through Moses to the nation.

B. Church, “the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise” for ________ will not deal falsely with His ________________, and His covenant He will ______. ________________

C. If “the inheritance” (______________) is based on Law, then it is no longer based on a ________________.

1. ____ God promised that believers receive the Abrahamic inheritance by faith alone in Christ alone, but __________ some 430 years later set forth conditions whereby the inheritance must be earned by the keeping of the Law, then the promises of God are null and ________.

2. “… but” the promises of ________ stand full and valid for “God has _________________ the inheritance to Abraham by means of a promise.”

D. God has graciously given as a _________ of His own will His promises to Abraham and his seed, Christ, that He shall bless peoples from every tribe and language by _________________ all who come to Him in faith believing. And this promise has come to us today! _________________ be the name of the Lord our ________!!!

Conclusion: God’s Abrahamic promise is as a last will and testament for it cannot be set aside, annulled, made void nor have conditions added to it. The promises of _______ stand just as He last pronounced them some 430 years before He gave the Law to Moses, and the inheritance that He has _________________ all who believe in His Son is granted as a free and gracious gift, unalterable, unchangeable, undeniable, inexpressible and full of glory! And since God will not rescind this promise, it stands even now freely offering _________________ to all who would believe in Jesus, that He is the Christ!

Every sinner who ever trusts in _________________ Jesus as Savior and Lord, _________________ in Him completely, relying not on any merit or good works of their own, is thereby justified by the _______________ of God being joint-heirs with Jesus Christ, sharing in the eternal inheritance of everlasting life. And this is so for there is “A Covenant Previously Ratified by God” and that ________________ stands.

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