

Chapter 10

The Church: Reflecting the Light of Christ

- Intro. *ekklesia* and *qahal* – congregation, gathering of the community
 - but “church” in the creed refers to a specific understanding of this congregation
- ch. 10 multiple themes: People of God, Sacrament of Salvation, Body of Christ, Bride of Christ, and Temple of the Holy Spirit
- Feel free to ask questions about any, but I am going to focus on a couple of these themes
 - 1) the Church as the New Covenant People of God
 - 2) the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ
- The Church is the New Covenant People of God
 - There was always a people of God, more organized as time has gone on
 - The righteous line of Seth - Genesis 5 – sacrifice even before Seth
 - The Covenant with Noah
 - The Covenant with Abraham – circumcision – already God’s people a visible entity
 - The Old or Mosaic Covenant (complete list; erase; Old and New **side-by-side**)
 - Ten Commandments thru Moses
 - Tabernacle w/ sacrifices
 - God enthroned above the cherubim
 - getting more intimate
 - from the Exodus on a societas– an organization with offices, rules, administration, etc.
 - The New Covenant
 - predicted by the prophets ex: Jeremiah 31:33-34
 - fulfills the Old and reconstitutes the people of God with
 - Christ as head, law is love of God and neighbor (=10 Comm)
 - and His sacrifice as the only one
 - Hebrews 7:23-28; 9:11-15; **10:11-25** (also 4:14-16)
 - We participate in it through baptism (Romans 6) and the Eucharist
 - Eucharist brings to throne
 - maximal intimacy
 - still have a sacrifice, still must be a societas to ensure real thing
 - that societas is the RCC (although EO sacraments also valid)
 - no Protestant Church believes mass is a true sacrifice
 - Only here do we have “confidence to enter the sanctuary”
 - The Church is the Mystical body of Christ:
 - He works through the church, and we are organically joined to Him as a vine to the branches (John 6: 50s, 15: beg.)
 - Paul says that we all constitute the body of Christ (**1 Cor. 12:12-13; 27-28**)
 - visible aspect: a societas
 - invisible aspect: the Holy Spirit is the principle of life and that which effects every good work
 - Augustine: the HS is to the Church as the soul is to the body
 - Conclusion:
 - The Church shines the light of Christ in the world. He saves the world through us. To be in the Church is to be Christ in the world. This is a great privilege and a grave responsibility.