Zambia Family Conference: Message 1: *The Eternal Counsel of Redemption*: The fountain and foundation of God’s covenant love and faithfulness: Electronic handout

**Introduction: The Great Benefit of Embracing God’s covenant love and faithfulness:**

Ps. 89:1: I will sing of the lovingkindness of Jehovah forever: with my mouth will I make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Luke 1:68-75: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; For he has visited and wrought redemption for his people, 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David 70 (As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets that have been from of old): 71 salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; 72 To show mercy towards, our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; 73 The oath which he spoke unto Abraham our father, 74 to grant unto us that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies should serve him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Eph. 2:12-13: that you were at that time separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you that once were far off are made near in the blood of Christ.

Heb. 6:17-18: Wherein God, being minded to show more abundantly unto the heirs of the promise the immutability of his counsel, interposed with an oath; 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have a strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us:

THE ETERNAL COUNSEL OF REDEMPTION

The Inspired Guide

Eph. 1:4: he chose us in him before the foundation of the world; 2 Tim. 1:9: grace was given us in him before times eternal.

Eph. 1:11: predestined according to the purpose of him that works all things after the counsel of his own will

The word, βουλη (boule) translated “counsel,” signifies “purpose,” “resolution,” “decision.” This makes “counsel” a term well suited to depict the eternal commitment of our Redeemer. This text affirms explicitly and clearly that what God does in history is exactly what he decided to do in eternity.

The Infallible Testimony

1ST John 6:37, 38-39: All that which the Father gives to me shall come to me . . . For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that of all that he has given me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

2ND John 10:27-30: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.

3RD John 17:4-8, 24: I glorified you on the earth, having accomplished the work which you have given me to do. And now, glorify me together with yourself, Father, with the glory which I had with you before the world was. I manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they have come to know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words which you gave me I have given to them; and they received them, and truly understood that I came forth from you, and they believed that you sent me . . . Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, be with me where I am, in order that they may behold my glory, which you have given me; for you loved me before the foundation of the world.

4TH John 14:16-17: And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that he may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold him or know him, but you know him because he abides with you, and will be in you.

John 14:25-26: These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

John 15:26: When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness of me.

5TH Acts 20:28: Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which he purchased with His own blood.

1 Cor. 12:11: But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as he wills.
The Biblical Teaching

Since the eternal counsel of redemption is an aspect of God’s eternal decree, it has its distinguishing traits. It is unconditional (Eph. 1:5), immutable (Job 23:13-14), invincible (Isa. 14:27), immaculate (Eph. 1:3), and incomprehensible (Rom. 11:33-36).

The eternal counsel of redemption is an eternal redemptive act of the Trinity and an eternal decision and resolution of the will of the Trinity: in which:

God the Father selects God the Son as Redeemer and Representative of his elect people, thus giving and entrusting them to him, and resolves to send his Son to earth to accomplish their redemption from sin by his incarnation, anointing, perfect life, and atoning death, to resurrect him and seat him permanently, with the oath of an everlasting covenant, at his right hand to apply their redemption, and to send him to earth a second time, on the last day, to complete their redemption and judge the world;

And, God the Father and God the Son resolve to send God the Holy Spirit to earth, as the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, and the Spirit of Adoption, to redeem God’s elect people: individually in the Christian life; corporately in the Christian church; and completely in resurrection glory;

And, God the Spirit, as the Spirit of the Father and of the Son, resolves the measure and occasion of his individual and corporate application of redemption.

EXPERIENTIAL APPLICATIONS

CONFIDENCE IN GOD

God’s eternal counsel of redemption unites and secures all God’s promises and actions that relate to salvation. It unifies every promise framed in mercy and fulfilled in faithfulness. It founds the covenant of grace, the gospel of Christ, and redemption accomplished, applied, and completed. It secures the eternal welfare of all God’s elect. It makes absolutely certain the final salvation of everyone the Father entrusted to his Son before the foundation of the world. Thus, no one will ever pluck Christ’s sheep from his Father’s hand. He remains permanently committed to save to the uttermost all who believe in him and wait for him. No power in earth or hell can overthrow any aspect of this eternal decree regarding the Person and work of the Redeemer.

PRAISE AND GRATITUDE TO GOD

The Father so loved his people that he entrusted them to his Son and sent him to earth to endure his own wrath for those who believe in him (1 John 4:9-10). The Son so loved us that he is willing to receive us and was willing to die for us (Eph. 5:2). The Holy Spirit conveys God’s love experientially to us in our hearts (Rom. 5:5). Here is love indeed! Christians should dwell on this love and bless the triune God for his infinite love for us in Christ.