

Chapter 6 – Keeping God’s Covenant and the Antithetical Life

1. What is the meaning of the term “antithesis”?
 - a. How have you traditionally understood it?
 - b. What is its literal meaning from the Greek?
 - c. Is this term used in the Bible? Is it a biblical idea?

2. The antithesis and God.
 - a. How does Genesis 3:15 show that the antithesis is established by God?
 - b. Genesis 3:15 also divides humanity into two groups. What are these two groups? How do these two groups correspond to God’s eternal decree of predestination?
 - c. How is the antithesis realized on the cross of Christ? What division does the cross create in the human race? How would the teaching of a “universal atonement” deny this?
 - d. How does the Ascended Christ’s rule from heaven fit with the antithesis?
 - e. Why is it important to see the antithesis from the point of view of God, as opposed to merely thinking of the antithesis in terms of our Christian living? What comfort and encouragement is there in this?

3. The history of the antithesis.
 - a. Where did the opposition to God and his elect people originate?
 - b. When Satan failed in his opposition to God in heaven, he took his battle to the earth. How does the Fall show the power of Satan’s opposition to God? What did Satan attempt to do with Adam and the human race?
 - c. Was the fall a failure on God’s part? How did God’s decree concerning the fall serve his purpose of salvation through the cross?
 - d. The truth of the antithesis includes God’s preservation of the seed of the woman. Give some instances of this from the Old Testament. How is this a comfort for us in the New dispensation?

4. The figure of a battle (Read Ephesians 6:12-20).
 - a. How does one become a part of the army of God?
 - b. What are we fighting for in this battle?
 - c. Why is it important, from a practical point of view, to remember “life is a battlefield”?
 - d. How fierce is this battle and the enemy? What does Ephesians 6:12 have to say about this?
 - e. Who seems to have the upper hand in this battle? What perspective helps us to see otherwise?
 - f. What is the weapon of God’s army in this battle? What is the victory for God’s army? Does it come now? When will it come?
 - g. What do postmillennialism and reconstructionism teach is the weapon and victory?

5. The figure of pilgrims and strangers (Read Hebrews 11:13-16, 1 Peter 1)
 - a. Hebrews 11 describes the life of the O.T. saint as a pilgrimage. What did this mean for Abraham and the O.T. people? How are we pilgrims and strangers in the earth? What is our home and our hope?
 - b. What does this mean for our present life? Do we withdraw from society? What are some of the parts of our calling to which Peter refers in 1 Peter?
 - c. What is the ultimate purpose of our lives? How does this relate to earthly possessions? How can these become obstacles?
 - d. How does pilgrim living and the antithesis evidence itself in your family life?