I. Rainbows 101 - A Symbol Misused
   A. Creation and folklore
      1. Native American/Australian Aborigine -
   B. Bridges
      1. From earth to the realm of the gods - Norse Mythology Bifrost
      2. From earth to a brighter, happier place - “Somewhere over the Rainbow”
      3. New Age movement
   C. Promises
      1. Fertility - Irish/Celtic thought
   D. Peace, love and freedom - Political movements
      1. Rainbow Coalition
      2. The LGBT or homosexual movement.

II. The Rainbow from God’s perspective (When God sees His Rainbow)
   A. It is God’s rainbow - Genesis 9:12-15
      1. It belongs to Him
      2. It carries with it significance and meaning as He defines it.
   B. Judgment has been satisfied - Genesis 9:13
      1. The bow is a symbol of judgment
         -God was judging the world because of their wickedness
      2. Now it’s a symbol of mercy and blessing
         a. God’s judgment had been satisfied
            -everything had been destroyed
         b. God set his rainbow at rest (down - in the clouds)
            -this is in a non-threatening position
            -pointed toward heaven not earth
   C. Atonement/Correct Worship has been made - Genesis 8:20-21
      1. Noah builds an altar of sacrifice and worship’s God
         a. Sets it as a priority
         b. Worships in a way that is prescribed by God
   D. A New Covenant is established -
      1. It is a promise to never destroy the earth by a worldwide flood again to destroy all flesh. Genesis 9:8-11
         a. Whenever rain is sent on the earth, God will see his rainbow and remember.
      2. The curse on the ground is lifted - Genesis 8:21-22
         a. The ground will produce
         b. There will be distinct seasons
         c. The earth will be in obedient to the laws that God had established
      3. “While the earth remains/ As long as the earth endures.” -Genesis 8:22
         a. Future global judgment will be by fire - 2 Peter 3:10
            -Some commentators have suggested that the watery colors of the rainbow (the blue end of the spectrum) remind us and God of the destruction by water, and the fiery colors (the red end of the spectrum) of the coming destruction by fire.
   E. Blessing is given - Genesis 9:1-4, 7
      1. Be fruitful and increase
      2. Dominion over all the animal kingdom
      3. New provision of food
         -specific instructions on how it is to be treated.
   F. Grace is provided - Genesis 8:21
      1. God offered grace before the flood and continues to do so after.
         “Even though man is wicked”
      2. God establishes a law regarding taking human life - Genesis 9:5-6
         “because man was created in the image of God.”
      3. God’s promise of Genesis 3:15 will be fulfilled

III. The Rainbow points us to Christ
   A. One mediator
      1. 1 Timothy 2:5
         -When God deals with us, He does so through Christ
      2. Jesus is clothed in rainbow - Ezekiel 1:26-28
   B. Judgment for sin has been satisfied in Christ’s death on the cross
   C. Atonement has been made and applied to our lives when we received Christ as Savior
   D. A new covenant of Grace
      2 Corinthians 5:14-21
         -our sins are no longer counted against us because of Christ’s sacrifice
   E. Blessing is now ours through
      1. The abiding presence of the Holy Spirit
      2. The promise of eternal life

So what does this mean for us today?
The next time you see a rainbow, remember: You have an opportunity to help reclaim it’s true definition and restore to the world what God intended it to be. That His rainbow is a promise of God’s grace. That the world will never again be destroyed by flood. But greater than that truth, is that sin has been judged on the cross throughout the person of Jesus Christ. Beloved this is only our experience if like Noah and his family, we have entered into the ark of safety provided for us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Psalm 34:8
Skittles