

## THE 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

### Christ the Mediator (2)

#### A. Introduction

1. Two things we are commanded to do as elders are to watch and to hold.

We are to watch what we believe, to make sure we are believing what God's Word says.

"Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Timothy 4:16)

We are to hold firmly to the truths taught in God's Word.

"He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it." (Titus 1:9)

It is vital we do these two things, not just for our own sake, but also for the members of this church and in fact those who live in the community God has placed us in.

To help us to watch and to hold, we are spending our elders' meeting working through the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith a paragraph or so at a time.

2. For Christ to establish the covenant of grace, He needed to be our mediator.

For only He can remove the enmity we have toward God and satisfy God's wrath towards us.

*"It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them both, to be the mediator between God and man; the prophet, priest, and king; head and saviour of the church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world; unto whom He did from all eternity give a people to be His seed and to be by Him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified."*

This opening paragraph of Chapter 8 of the Confession reminds us that Christ was appointed to this role of mediator because of God's purpose and because of God's pleasure.

It also tells us that the way Christ becomes our mediator is by fulfilling the threefold office of prophet, priest, and king.

*"...the prophet, priest, and king; head and saviour of the church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world..."*

#### B. Christ is our Prophet

1. A prophet is someone who speaks the words that God gives them to speak.

He has true knowledge of God is able to convey that knowledge to others.

After sin entered the world, people were no longer able to know God and speak about Him unless He graciously revealed Himself and spoke to them, which He did through Israel's prophets.

God also promised that one day He would raise up a prophet who would not only speak His words to people but cause them to as well.

"For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you.'" (Acts 3:22)

2. Jesus is the Prophet.

His work as the prophet was to reveal God and speak God's words to us.

"No-one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known." (John 1:18)

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." (Luke 24:27)

Without His prophetic work, we would be ignorant of God and unable to know Him.

### **C. Christ is our Priest**

1. A priest is someone who represents himself or others to God.

He does this by offering sacrifices which God accepts.

After sin entered the world, people were driven from God's presence and barred from entering unless He graciously made provision for making them holy, which He did through the Levitical priesthood and sacrificial system.

God also promised that one day He would raise up a priest who would deal with His people's sin and make them holy in His sight once and for all time.

"If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come – one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?" (Hebrews 7:11)

2. Jesus is the Priest.

His work as the priest was to offer up a perfect sacrifice to atone for the sins of His people so they could boldly come into God's presence.

"So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." And he says in another place, "You are a priest for ever in the order of Melchizedek." (Hebrews 5:5-6)

Without His priestly work, we would remain guilty and alienated from God.

### **D. Christ is our King**

1. A king is someone who is given dominion to rule as God's representative.

Humans were given the responsibility to rule and exercise dominion over creation as an extension of God's own rule.

After sin entered the world, God promised a King who would restore this representative rule over creation on His behalf that had been lost.

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

"I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession." (Psalm 2:6-7)

2. Jesus is the King.

"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:32-33)

As King He is head of the church – all the people He has saved belong to Him and He rules over them by governing and by guarding them.

“And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.” (Ephesians 1:22-23)

As King He is heir of all things – all creation belongs to Him and He rules over it by directing and determining the affairs of the world.

“But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.” (Hebrews 1:2)

As King He is the judge of the world – all enemies will be destroyed, and nothing will be left that can spoil the new creation He is preparing for His people.

“For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.” (Acts 17:31)

Without His kingly work, we would remain corrupt and without hope.

### **E. How then shall we lead?**

1. Because He is prophet – we must listen to Him.

Only He can tell us who God is and what He wants us to know.

2. Because He is priest – we must depend upon Him.

Only He can save us from the wrath of God we deserve for our sins.

3. Because He is King – we must obey Him.

Only He can direct us to live in the way that is pleasing and acceptable to God.