

THE 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

Christ the Mediator (10)

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. The Lord Jesus was chosen and appointed to be the mediator between God and man by fulfilling the threefold office of prophet, priest, and king, for those people He was given as a gift in eternity.

He is fully God and truly man. One person with two natures, who did not and could not sin as He did not inherit the sinful nature that all humans have inherited from Adam as a result of His miraculous nativity.

But what is about Christ that makes Him a suitable choice for this work of being the mediator?

The third paragraph of Chapter 8 of the Confession tells us.

"The Lord Jesus, in His human nature thus united to the divine, in the person of the Son, was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit above measure, having in Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; in whom it pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, to the end that being holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth, He might be thoroughly furnished to execute the office of mediator and surety; which office He took not upon himself, but was thereunto called by His Father who also put all power and judgement in His hand, and gave Him commandment to execute the same."

Jesus was qualified for this role of mediator because He was sanctified and anointed by the Spirit.

This sanctifying and anointing by the Spirit equipped Him to be the mediator – *"He might be thoroughly furnished to execute the office of mediator and surety"* – so that He can give to us three things that we need.

B. He can give us wisdom

1. Jesus our mediator and surety has the wisdom we need.

"having in Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge..."

In dependence upon the Holy Spirit, Jesus grew in wisdom and knowledge according to His human nature, becoming the wisest man to ever live.

"And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him." (Luke 2:40)

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men." (Luke 2:52)

"The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here." (Matthew 12:42)

"My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Colossians 2:2-3)

He is now the wisdom of God; both the means by which we can be saved, and the means by which we can be sanctified.

2. Jesus can give us the wisdom we need.

If we want to be saved from our sin, death, and hell, and live a godly life that please God, we need Jesus to tell us how.

"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption." (1 Corinthians 1:30)

C. He can give us righteousness

1. Jesus our mediator and surety has the righteousness we need.

"...in whom it pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, to the end that being holy, harmless, undefiled..."

In dependence upon the Holy Spirit, Jesus lived a perfectly pure and righteous life according to His human nature.

"Such a high priest meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens." (Hebrews 7:26)

He is holy – at every moment of His life, He was entirely devoted to God, never once having an impure thought or acting in a sinful way.

He is harmless – never did He hurt anyone by word or deed; He truly was the Great Physician who came to heal sinners.

He is undefiled – though surrounded by and touched by those who were sinful, He was not tainted by their sin.

He is now the righteousness of God; both the One who can give us the righteousness we need to be justified in God's sight and the One whose life we are being conformed to.

2. Jesus can give us the righteousness we need.

If we want to be accepted by God, we need this righteousness only Jesus has.

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17)

D. He can give us grace

1. Jesus our mediator and surety has the grace we need.

"...and full of grace and truth..."

In dependence upon the Holy Spirit, Jesus was according to His human nature, the full expression of God's grace and God's truth.

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

By being full of grace He will cover our sin and welcome us freely when we come to Him in faith.

But His gracious welcome is never at the expense of telling us the truth about ourselves.

2. Jesus can give us the grace we need.

If we want to be part of God’s saved people, we need this grace Jesus can show us.

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.” (Ephesians 2:4-5)

D. How then shall we lead?

1. By coming to Jesus for wisdom, righteousness, and grace.

If we are going to lead God’s people, we need to first be God’s people.

We need the wisdom, righteousness, and grace that Jesus gives so that we can.

2. By continuing to come to Jesus for wisdom, righteousness, and grace.

If we are going to lead God’s people, we need to live as God’s people.

We need the wisdom, righteousness, and grace that Jesus gives so that we can.