

THE 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

Christ the Mediator (14)

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.

But how did He execute this office of mediator?

In the fourth paragraph of chapter 8 of the Confession, we get a description of how Jesus fulfills this role.

"This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake, which that He might discharge He was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfil it, and underwent the punishment due to us, which we should have born and suffered, being made sin and a curse for us; enduring most grievous sorrows in His soul, and most painful sufferings in His body; was crucified, and died, and remained in the state of the dead, yet saw no corruption: on the third day He arose from the dead with the same body in which He suffered, with which He also ascended into heaven, and there sits at the right hand of His Father making intercession, and shall return to judge men and angels at the end of the world."

We see that Jesus executes this office of mediator by being willing and obedient; by suffering, dying, rising, and ascending, and by sitting, interceding, and one day returning.

B. Christ our mediator has risen

1. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day with the same body.

"...on the third day He arose from the dead with the same body in which He suffered..."

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

"So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." ... "Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:25, 27)

2. Why did Jesus rise from the dead?

It was necessary for our justification.

By raising Christ from the dead, the Father was saying to Him that all the penalty for sins has been paid, and I find You righteous in My sight. This was a declaration that now applies to us who have trusted in Christ for salvation.

It was necessary for our resurrection.

As Christ's body was transformed into a glorious body suited for eternal life in the new creation, so will one day ours be too.

C. Christ our mediator has ascended

1. Jesus ascended into heaven, 40 days after His resurrection.

"...with which He also ascended into heaven..."

"After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:9-11)

2. Why did Jesus ascend into heaven?

To take His place on the throne as King of the universe.

To make intercession for us.

To prepare a place for us in His Father's house.

To send the Holy Spirit.

D. Christ our mediator is seated

1. Jesus is now seated at the right hand of His Father.

"...and there sits at the right hand of His Father..."

"Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us." (Romans 8:34)

The right hand is the place of glory and honour, authority, and rest.

2. Why is Jesus now seated at right hand of His Father?

As proof that He has received glory and honour, not just as the Son of God, but as the God-man mediator.

As proof that He has all-authority and can determine who will receive blessing and who will receive punishment.

As proof that He is now at rest having successfully accomplished His task in a way that is pleasing to His Father.

E. Christ our mediator is interceding

1. Jesus having been risen from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God the Father is making intercession for His people.

"Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." (Hebrews 7:25)

"...making intercession..."

2. How is Jesus making intercession for His people?

By representing us.

Because Christ was punished for our sins, we can be certain of forgiveness when we confess them, because it would be unjust for us to be condemned for those same sins He died for.

By praying for us.

That the blessings He has secured by His death would be applied to us by the Holy Spirit.

F. Christ our mediator will return

1. Jesus will return to judge.

"He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead." (Acts 10:42)

"...and shall return to judge men and angels at the end of the world."

2. Why will Jesus return?

To judge the world.

Then the wicked will be thrown into the lake of fire and the righteous will be glorified and enter eternal life in the new heavens and new earth.

G. How then shall we lead?

1. Considering how Jesus executes His office of mediator should lead us to worship Him passionately and encourage the members of this local church to do the same.

How can we not?

2. Considering how Jesus executes His office of mediator should lead us to wait for Him patiently and encourage the members of this local church to do the same.

We are to help them get ready for His return.