

THE 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

Christ the Mediator (15)

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 executed this office of mediator by being willing and obedient; by suffering, dying, rising, and ascending, and by sitting, interceding, and one day returning.

In paragraph 5 of chapter 8 of the Confession, the focus is on what Jesus has achieved by executing this office of mediator.

"The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience and sacrifice of Himself, which He through the eternal Spirit once offered up to God, has fully satisfied the justice of God, procured reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father has given unto Him."

Jesus offered His obedience and sacrifice up to God for the sake of all those people He had been given by His Father.

"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" (Hebrews 9:14)

"...because by one sacrifice he has made perfect for ever those who are being made holy." (Hebrews 10:14)

In doing this, what has He achieved for them?

B. He has satisfied

1. Jesus by His obedience and sacrifice has satisfied God's justice.

"...has fully satisfied the justice of God..."

"God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus." (Romans 3:25-26)

God can forgive His people – those who have faith in Jesus – because the penalty they deserved for their sins has been paid for by another.

2. Jesus by His obedience and sacrifice has satisfied God's wrath because His death was propitiatory.

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4:10)

His death propitiated the wrath of God.

It appeased the anger God has towards His people because of the great offense their sin causes Him.

There remains no wrath left to face for those that the Father has given to His Son.

C. He has secured

1. Jesus by His obedience and sacrifice has secured reconciliation for His people.

"...procured reconciliation..."

"For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!" (Romans 5:10)

By cleansing us from sin, and imputing His obedience to His people, Christ has brought them into right relationship with God.

2. Jesus by His obedience and sacrifice has secured an inheritance for His people.

"...and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven..."

"For you have granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him." (John 17:2)

"For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance – now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant." (Hebrews 9:15)

This relationship with God, Christ has secured for His people, will last for eternity, as they enjoy their inheritance in the kingdom of heaven.

D. How then shall we lead?

1. Our message to those who are trusting in Christ, is that you can have the assurance that God has forgiven you.

The punishment your sins deserve has been paid.

Christ has achieved satisfaction of the justice of God for you.

2. Our message to those who are trusting in Christ, is that you can have the assurance that God is with you.

He will never leave you or forsake you. He is with you now and will be eternally.

Christ has achieved reconciliation with God and an eternal inheritance from God for you.