

## THE 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

### Christ the Mediator (18)

#### 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 executing this office of mediator, Jesus offered up His obedience and sacrifice to God for the sake of all those people He had been given by His Father, achieving for them satisfaction of God's justice and securing reconciliation.

And He did this for all the elect who lived before His coming.

3. In chapter 8, paragraph 8, we move from Christ's accomplishment of our redemption to His application of that redemption to the lives of those He came to save.

*"To all those for whom Christ has obtained eternal redemption, He does certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same, making intercession for them; uniting them to Himself by His Spirit, revealing to them, in and by His Word, the mystery of salvation, persuading them to believe and obey, governing their hearts by His Word and Spirit, and overcoming all their enemies by His almighty power and wisdom, in such manner and ways as are most consonant to His wonderful and unsearchable dispensation; and all of free and absolute grace, without any condition foreseen in them to procure it."*

Jesus has effectively atoned for the sins of all the elect and He will effectively communicate all the benefits of His death to them.

*"To all those for whom Christ has obtained eternal redemption, He does certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same..."*

"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away." (John 6:37)

"Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd." (John 10:15-16)

How does He do this?

#### B. By interceding for them

1. Jesus, our Great High Priest, not only has offered the perfect sacrifice on our behalf, He also prays a prayer of intercession for us.

*"...making intercession for them..."*

In the Old Testament, the High Priest offered the sacrifice of atonement for the people, and also attached to it, a prayer of intercession that the sacrifice would be applied to those people.

Jesus is in heaven now praying that the benefits of His saving work will be applied to those for whom He offered Himself up for.

"I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours." (John 17:9)

2. We can be certain that all the elect will be saved because Christ intercedes for them.

"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)

### **C. By revealing to them**

1. Jesus, our Prophet, by His Spirit reveals the truth of how they can be saved to His people.

*"...uniting them to Himself by His Spirit, revealing to them, in and by His Word, the mystery of salvation."*

What remains hidden to those who have not been elected for salvation, He makes known to all those He died for.

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word." (John 17:6)

2. We can be certain that all the elect will be saved because Christ reveals to them

"We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true – even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life." (1 John 5:20)

### **D. By persuading them**

1. Jesus, our King, works in us by His Spirit to persuade us to believe His Word.

*"...persuading them to believe and obey..."*

He effectively brings us to repentance and faith as we hear the way of salvation in the Scriptures.

2. Jesus works in us by Spirit to persuade us to obey His Word.

*"...governing their hearts by His Word and Spirit."*

He effectively leads us by His Word as we hear the way of sanctification in the Scriptures.

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17)

"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ." (Romans 8:9)

3. We can be certain that all the elect will be saved because Christ persuades them.

## **E. By overcoming for them**

1. Jesus not only overcomes all our sins, but all our enemies too.

*"...and overcoming all their enemies by His almighty power and wisdom, in such manner and ways as are most consonant to His wonderful and unsearchable dispensation."*

He is in the process of making every enemy His footstool.

"The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." (Psalm 110:1)

"For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death." (1 Corinthians 15:25-26)

No one and nothing can stop His people from being saved because He is powerfully protecting them.

2. We can be certain that all the elect will be saved because Christ overcomes for them.

The world does not have the upper hand. The flesh is being put to death. The devil is defeated.

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

1. It is thrilling to know that our salvation is secure because Jesus hasn't just made it possible for us to be saved but has made it certain that we will.

Because Christ is interceding, revealing, persuading, and overcoming, He will definitely and completely save us and all who believe.

2. It is thrilling to know that our salvation is secure because we don't deserve to be saved in the first place.

*"...and all of free and absolute grace, without any condition foreseen in them to procure it."*