

## THE 1689 BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH

### Christ the Mediator (20)

#### 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 (including the elect who lived before His coming), achieving for them satisfaction of God's justice and securing reconciliation.

This redemption that Christ has accomplished, He applies to the lives of those He came to save by praying prayers of intercession for them, revealing the truth of how they can be saved to them, persuading them to believe His Word, and by powerfully protecting them.

Only Jesus can be the mediator we need, for no-one else can stand between sinners and God, and bring sinners to God.

3. The final paragraph of chapter 8 of Confession returns to the threefold office Christ has as mediator; of prophet, priest, and king; and tells us why we need Him to fulfil each of these.

*"This number and order of offices is necessary; for in respect of our ignorance, we stand in need of His prophetic office; and in respect of our alienation from God, and imperfection of the best of our services, we need His priestly office to reconcile us and present us acceptable unto God; and in respect to our averseness and utter inability to return to God, and for our rescue and security from our spiritual adversaries, we need His kingly office to convince, subdue, draw, uphold, deliver, and preserve us to His heavenly kingdom."*

This paragraph not only shows us our need for Christ to be prophet, priest, and king, but also to be prophet, priest, and king in that order.

*"This number and order of offices is necessary..."*

#### B. First, we need Jesus to be our prophet

1. The reason we need Jesus to be our prophet first of all, is because we are ignorant.

*"...for in respect of our ignorance, we stand in need of His prophetic office..."*

As fallen human beings, we are blind to our sin, the punishment of hell we are facing, and without any knowledge of God and how we can be saved by Him.

We need to know who God is.

We need to know who we are.

We need to know what Christ has done to save us.

## 2. Wonderfully, Jesus is our prophet.

He reveals God to us and teaches us the words of God.

"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)

He declares the gospel to us so we can know how to be saved.

But it is not enough to have Jesus as our prophet – if Jesus is only our prophet, we would know that there is a way to be saved, but not actually be saved.

### **C. Second, we need Jesus to be our priest**

#### 1. The reason we need next, Jesus to be our priest, is because we are alienated from God because our sin.

*"...and in respect of our alienation from God, and imperfection of the best of our services, we need His priestly office to reconcile us and present us acceptable unto God..."*

We need someone to reconcile us to God.

We need someone to satisfy God's wrath against our sin.

We need someone to present us as acceptable in God's sight by giving us the righteousness we need.

"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your mind because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation." (Colossians 1:21-22)

#### 2. Wonderfully, Jesus is our priest.

He represents us, by offering Himself up as the perfect sacrifice to atone for the sins of His people.

He makes it possible for us to boldly come into God's presence.

But it is not enough to have Jesus as our priest – if Jesus is only our priest, there would be a Saviour, but He wouldn't be our Saviour.

### **D. Third, we need Jesus to be our king**

#### 1. The reason we need Jesus to be our king as well, is because by ourselves we are unable to trust in Him and keep trusting in Him.

*"...and in respect to our averseness and utter inability to return to God, and for our rescue and security from our spiritual adversaries, we need His kingly office to convince, subdue, draw, uphold, deliver, and preserve us to His heavenly kingdom."*

We need someone to convict us of our sin and convince us of our need for a Saviour, otherwise we would never seek God.

We need someone to overcome the resistance in our hearts to God, and draw us to Christ in repentance and faith.

We need someone to protect and defeat our enemies and enable us to fight against our remaining sin.

We need someone to preserve us in the faith to the very end.

2. Wonderfully, Jesus is our king.

“...to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.” (Luke 1:74-75)

By His Spirit He brings us to Himself.

By His Spirit He extends His lordship to every area of our lives.

By His Spirit He prevents us from falling.

One day He will present us before His Father without fault and with great joy.

**D. How then shall we lead?**

1. Praise Him for He is our prophet, priest and king.

He is the only Saviour.

He is the complete Saviour.

2. Trust Him to be our prophet, priest and king.

Listen to Him teach words of life that bring salvation and sanctification.

Follow Him as He leads you along paths of righteousness, through the valley of the shadow of death, and to the house of the LORD where you will dwell safely forever.