

THE LONDON
BAPTIST CONFESSION
Of 1689

*with Original Preface,
Baptist Catechism,
and Appendix on Baptism*

*Put forth by the elders and brethren of many congregations of Christians
(baptized upon profession of their faith) in London and the country*

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PREFACE

To the judicial and impartial reader—1677

Purpose

Courteous Reader: It is now many years¹ since divers² of us (with other sober Christians then living and walking in the way of the Lord that we profess) did conceive ourselves to be under a necessity of publishing a confession of our faith, for the information and satisfaction of those that did not thoroughly understand what our principles were, or had entertained prejudices against our profession, by reason of the strange representation of them by some men of note who had taken very wrong measures, and accordingly led others into misapprehension of us and them. This was first put forth about the year 1643 in the name of seven congregations then gathered in London. Since which time, divers impressions thereof have been dispersed abroad, and our end proposed in good measure answered, inasmuch as many (and some of those men eminent both for piety and learning) were thereby satisfied that we were no way guilty of those heterodoxies³ and fundamental errors which had too frequently been charged upon us, without ground or occasion given on our part.

And forasmuch as that Confession is not now commonly to be had, and also that many others have since embraced the same truth which is owned therein, it was judged necessary by us to join together in giving a testimony to the world of our firm adhering to those wholesome principles by the publication of this which is now in your hand. And forasmuch as our method and manner of expressing our sentiments in this doth vary from the former (although the substance of this matter is the same), we shall freely impart to you the reason and occasion thereof. One thing that greatly prevailed with us to undertake this work was not only to give a full account of ourselves to those Christians that differ from us about the subject of baptism, but also the profit that might from thence arise unto those that have any account of our labors in their instruction and establishment in the great truths of the gospel, in the clear understanding and steady belief of which our

¹ In 1677, it had been 33 years since a former *London Confession* had been issued (in 1644) by seven Baptist congregations in London. That document had been drawn up to distinguish the Particular Baptist churches (who followed the historic evangelical faith of the Reformation) from the Anabaptists and the newly forming Arminian Baptists.

² **divers** – several.

³ **heterodoxies** – teachings not in accordance with established or accepted doctrines; unorthodox doctrines.

comfortable walking with God, and fruitfulness before Him in all our ways, is most nearly concerned. Therefore, we did conclude it necessary to express ourselves the more fully and distinctly, and also to fix on such a method as might be most comprehensive of those things we designed to explain our sense and belief of.

The Westminster Assembly

Finding no defect in this regard in that fixed on by the Assembly,⁴ and after them by those of the Congregational way,⁵ we did readily conclude it best to retain the same order in our present Confession. Also, when we observed that those last mentioned did in their confessions (for reasons which seemed of weight both to themselves and others) choose not only to express their mind in words concurrent with the former in sense concerning all those articles wherein they were agreed, but also for the most part without any variation of the terms, we did in like manner conclude it best to follow their example in making use of the very same words with them both in these articles (which are very many) wherein our faith and doctrine are the same with theirs. This we did the more abundantly to manifest our consent with both in all the fundamental articles of the Christian religion, as also with many others whose orthodox Confessions have been published to the world on the behalf of the Protestant in diverse nations and cities—and also to convince all that we have no itch to clog religion with new words, but do readily acquiesce in that form of sound words which hath been, in consent with the Holy Scriptures, used by others before us; hereby declaring, before God, angels, and men, our hearty agreement with them in that wholesome Protestant doctrine which, with so clear evidence of Scriptures, they have asserted. Some things, indeed, are in some places added, some terms omitted, and some few changed; but these alterations are of that nature as that we need not doubt any charge or suspicion of unsoundness in the faith from any of our brethren upon the account of them.

Small Differences

In those things wherein we differ from others, we have expressed ourselves with all candor and plainness, that none might entertain jealousy of aught secretly lodged in our breasts that we would not the world should be acquainted with. Yet, we hope we have also observed those rules of modesty and humility as will render our freedom in this respect inoffensive, even to those whose sentiments are different from ours.

⁴ **Westminster Assembly of Divines** (1643) – assembly of 121 theologians appointed by the “Puritan” Long Parliament to make proposals for reforming the Church of England; it produced the *Westminster Confession* (1647), the *Larger and Shorter Catechisms*, the *Directory for Public Worship*, and the *Form of Church Government*.

⁵ An assembly of Congregational theologians and ministers met in 1658 to draft a confession of faith for the Congregational churches, known as the *Savoy Declaration*. It is like the *Westminster Confession* except for the article on church government.

We have also taken care to affix texts of Scripture at the bottom, for the confirmation of each article in our Confession, in which work we have studiously endeavored to select such as are most clear and pertinent for the proof of what is asserted by us. Our earnest desire is that all into whose hands this may come would follow that (never enough commended) example of the noble Bereans, who searched the Scriptures daily that they might find out whether the things preached to them were so or not (Act 17:11).

Avoiding Unnecessary Contention

There is one thing more which we sincerely profess and earnestly desire credence in, viz.,⁶ that contention is most remote from our design in all that we have done in this matter. We hope that the liberty of an ingenuous⁷ unfolding our principles and opening our hearts unto our brethren, with the Scripture grounds of our faith and practice, will by none of them be either denied to us or taken ill from us. Our whole design is accomplished if we may have attained that justice, as to be measured in our principles and practice, and the judgment of both by others, according to what we have now published, which the Lord (Whose eyes are as a flame of fire) knoweth to be the doctrine which with our hearts we most firmly believe and sincerely endeavor to conform our lives to.

And oh, that—other contentions being laid asleep—the only care and contention of all upon whom the name of our blessed Redeemer is called, might for the future be to walk humbly with their God in the exercise of all love and meekness toward each other; to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord, each one endeavoring to have his conversation such as becometh the gospel. And also, suitable to his place and capacity, vigorously to promote in others the practice of true religion and undefiled in the sight of God our Father! And that, in this backsliding day, we might not spend our breath in fruitless complaints of the evils of others, but may every one begin at home, to reform in the first place our own hearts and ways, and then to quicken all that we may have influence upon to the same work: that if the will of God were so, none might deceive themselves by resting in and trusting to a form of godliness without the power of it, and inward experience of the efficacy of those truths that are professed by them.

Family Worship

Verily, there is one spring and cause of the decay of religion in our day which we cannot but touch upon and earnestly urge a redress of, and that is the neglect of the worship of God in families by those to whom the charge and conduct of them is

⁶ viz. – Latin: *videlicet*; “that is to say”; “namely.” ⁷

ingenuous – honest; honorably straightforward.

committed.⁷ May not the gross ignorance and instability of many, with the profaneness of others, be justly charged upon their parents and masters, who have not trained them up in the way wherein they ought to walk when they were young, but have neglected those frequent and solemn commands which the Lord hath laid upon them, so to catechise⁸ and instruct them that their tender years might be seasoned with the knowledge of the truth of God as revealed in the Scriptures—and also by their own omission of prayer and other duties of religion of their families, together with the ill example of their loose conversation,⁹ having inured¹¹ them first to a neglect and the contempt of all piety and religion. We know this will not excuse the blindness and wickedness of any, but certainly it will fall heavy upon those that have been thus the occasion thereof. They indeed die in their sins; but will not their blood be required of those under whose care they were, who yet permitted them to go on without warning—yea, led them into the paths of destruction? And will not the diligence of Christians with respect to the discharge of these duties in ages past rise up in judgment against and condemn many of those who would be esteemed such now?

Conclusion

We shall conclude with our earnest prayer that the God of all grace will pour out those measures of His Holy Spirit upon us, that the profession of truth may be accompanied with the sound belief and diligent practice of it by us, that His name may in all things be glorified through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



⁷ See Free Grace Broadcaster 188, *Family Worship*; and *Family Worship* by Merle D'Aubigne (1794-1872); both available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

⁸ **catechise** – to instruct orally by means of questions and answers.

⁹ **conversation** – conduct; way of life. ¹¹

inured – hardened.

THE LONDON BAPTIST CONFESSION OF 1689

Chapter 1

1. Of the Holy Scriptures

1 The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible ^arule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience, although the light ^bof nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and his will which is necessary unto salvation. ^cTherefore it pleased the Lord at sundry times and in divers manners to reveal himself, and to declare that his will unto his church; and afterward for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan, and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto ^dwriting; which maketh the Holy Scriptures to be most necessary, those former ways of God's revealing his will unto his people being now ceased.

(^a 2Ti 3:15-17; Isa 8:20; Luk 16:29,31; Eph 2:20; ^b Rom 1:19-21; 2:14-15; Psa 19:1-3; ^c Heb 1:1; ^d Pro 22:19-21; Rom 15:4; 2Pe 1:19-20)

2 Under the name of Holy Scripture, or the Word of God written, are now contained all the books of the Old and New Testaments, which are these:

Of the Old Testament

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

Of the New Testament

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, Revelation.

All of which are given by the ^einspiration of God to be the rule of faith and life.

(^e 2Ti 3:16)

3 The books commonly called Apocrypha, not being of ^fdivine inspiration, are no part of the canon or rule of the Scripture, and, therefore, are of no authority to the church of God, nor to be any otherwise approved or made use of than other human writings.

(^fLuk 24:27,44; Rom 3:2)

4 The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon ^gGod (who is truth itself), the author thereof; therefore it is to be received because it is the Word of God.

(^g2Pe 1:19-21; 2Ti 3:16; 2Th 2:13; 1Jo 5:9)

5 We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the church of God to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scriptures; and the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, and the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, and many other incomparable excellencies, and entire perfections thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God; yet notwithstanding, our ^hfull persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth, and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.

(^hJoh 16:13-14; 1Co 2:10-12; 1Jo 2:20,27)

6 The whole counsel of God concerning all things ⁱnecessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down or necessarily contained in the Holy Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelation of the Spirit, or traditions of men.

Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward ^killumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word, and that there are some circumstances concerning the worship of God, and government of the church, common to human actions and societies, which are to be ^lordered by the light of nature and Christian prudence, according to the general rules of the Word, which are always to be observed.

(ⁱ2Ti 3:15-17; Gal 1:8-9; ^kJoh 6:45; 1Co 2:9-12; ^l1Co 11:13-14; 14:26,40)

7 All things in Scripture are not alike ^mplain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed and observed for salvation, are so ⁿclearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of ordinary means, may attain to a sufficient understanding of them.

(^m2Pe 3:16; ⁿPsa 19:7; 119:130)

8 The Old Testament in ^oHebrew (which was the native language of the people of God of old), and the New Testament in Greek (which at the time of the writing of it was most generally known to the nations), being immediately inspired by God, and by his singular care and providence kept pure in all ages, are therefore ^pauthentic; so as in all controversies of religion, the church is finally to appeal to them. ^q But because these original tongues are not known to all the people of God, who have a right unto, and interest in the Scriptures, and are commanded in the fear of God to read ^rand search them, therefore they are to be translated into the vulgar language of every nation unto which they^s come, that the Word of God dwelling ^tplentifully in all, they may worship him in an acceptable manner, and through patience and comfort of the Scriptures may have hope.

(^oRom 3:2; ^p Isa 8:20; ^qAct 15:15; ^rJoh 5:39; ^s 1Co 14:6,9,11-12,24,28; ^tCol 3:16)

9 The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the ^uScripture itself; and therefore when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched by other places that speak more clearly.

(^u 2Pe 1:20-21; Act 15:15-16)

10 The supreme judge, by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Scripture delivered by the Spirit, into which ^xScripture so delivered, our faith is finally resolved.

(^x Mat 22:29,31-32; Eph 2:20; Act 28:23)

Chapter 2

2. Of God and Of the Holy Trinity

1 The Lord our God is but ^aone only living and true God; whose ^bsubsistence is in and of himself, ^cinfinite in being and perfection; whose essence cannot be comprehended by any but himself; ^da most pure spirit, ^einvisible, without body, parts, or passions, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; who is ^fimmutable, ^gimmense, ^heternal, incomprehensible, ⁱalmighty, every way infinite, ^kmost holy, most wise, most free, most absolute; ^lworking all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will ^mfor his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; ⁿthe rewarder of them that diligently seek him, and withal most just ^oand terrible in his judgments, ^phating all sin, and who will by no means clear the ^qguilty.

(^a 1Co 8:4,6; Deu 6:4; ^b Jer 10:10; Isa 48:12; ^c Exo 3:14; ^d Joh 4:24; ^e 1Ti 1:17; Deu 4:15-16; ^f Mal 3:6; ^g 1Ki 8:27; Jer 23:23; ^h Psa 90:2; ⁱ Gen 17:1; ^k Isa 6:3; ^l Psa 115:3; Isa 46:10; ^m Pro 16:4; Rom 11:36; ⁿ Exo 34:6-7; Heb 11:6; ^o Neh 9:32-33; ^p Psa 5:5-6; ^q Exo 34:7; Nah 1:2-3)

2 God, having all ^rlife, ^sglory, ^tgoodness, blessedness, in and of himself, is alone in and unto himself all-sufficient, not ^ustanding in need of any creature which he hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting his own glory in, by, unto, and upon them; he is the alone fountain of all being, ^xof whom, through whom, and to whom are all things, and he hath most sovereign ^ydominion over all creatures, to do by them, for them, or upon them, whatsoever himself pleaseth; in his sight ^zall things are open and manifest; his knowledge is ^ainfinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to him contingent or uncertain; he is most holy in all his counsels, in ^ball his works, and in all his commands; to him is due ^cfrom angels and men, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience, as creatures they owe unto the Creator, and whatever he is further pleased to require of them.

(^r Joh 5:26; ^s Psa 148:13; ^t Psa 119:68; ^u Job 22:2-3; ^x Rom 11:34-36; ^y Dan 4:25,34-35; ^z Heb 4:13; ^a Eze 11:5; Act 15:18; ^b Psa 145:17; ^c Rev 5:12-14)

3 In this divine and infinite Being there are three subsistences, ^dthe Father, the Word or Son, and Holy Spirit, of one substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence, ^eyet the essence undivided: the Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is ^feternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Spirit ^gproceeding from the Father and the Son; all infinite, without beginning, therefore but one God, who is not

to be divided in nature and being, but distinguished by several peculiar relative properties and personal relations; which doctrine of the Trinity is the foundation of all our communion with God, and comfortable dependence on him.

(^d1Jo 5:7; Mat 28:19; 2Co 13:14; ^eExo 3:14; Joh 14:11;
1Co 8:6; ^fJoh 1:14,18; ^gJoh 15:26; Gal 4:6)

Chapter 3

3. Of God's Decree

1 God hath ^adecreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass; yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin ^bnor hath fellowship with any therein; nor is violence offered to the will of the creature, nor yet is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather ^cestablished; in which appears his wisdom in disposing all things, and power and faithfulness ^din accomplishing his decree.

(^a Isa 46:10; Eph 1:11; Heb 6:17; Rom 9:15,18; ^b Jam 1:13; 1Jo 1:5; ^c Act
4:27-28; Joh 19:11; ^d Num 23:19; Eph 1:3-5)

2 Although God knoweth whatsoever may or can come to pass, upon all ^esupposed conditions, yet hath he not decreed anything, ^fbecause he foresaw it as future, or as that which would come to pass upon such conditions.

(^e Act 15:18; ^f Rom 9:11,13,16,18)

3 By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, ^gsome men and angels are predestinated, or foreordained to eternal life through Jesus Christ, to the ^hpraise of his glorious grace; others being left to act in their sin to their ⁱjust condemnation, to the praise of his glorious justice.

(^g 1Ti 5:21; Mat 25:34; ^h Eph 1:5-6; ⁱ Rom 9:22-23; Jude 4)

4 These angels and men thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed, and their ^knumber so certain and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished. (^k 2Ti 2:19; Joh 13:18)

5 Those of mankind ^lthat are predestinated to life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to his eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will, hath chosen in Christ unto everlasting glory, out of his

mere free grace and love, ^mwithout any other thing in the creature as a condition or cause moving him thereunto.

(^l Eph 1:4,9,11; Rom 8:30; 2Ti 1:9; 1Th 5:9; ^m Rom 9:13,16; Eph 2:5,12)

6 As God hath appointed the elect unto glory, so he hath, by the eternal and most free purpose of his will, foreordained ⁿall the means thereunto; wherefore they who are elected, being fallen in Adam, ^oare redeemed by Christ, are effectually ^pcalled unto faith in Christ, by his Spirit working in due season, are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by his power through faith ^qunto salvation; neither are any other redeemed by Christ, or effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved, but the elect ^ronly.

(ⁿ 1Pe 1:2; 2Th 2:13; ^o 1Th 5:9-10; ^p Rom 8:30; 2Th 2:13; ^q 1Pe 1:5; ^r Joh 10:26, 17:9, 6:64)

7 The doctrine of this high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care, that men attending the will of God revealed in his Word, and yielding obedience thereunto, may, from the certainty of their effectual vocation, be assured of their ^seternal election; so shall this doctrine afford matter ^tof praise, reverence, and admiration of God, and ^uof humility, diligence, and ^xabundant consolation to all that sincerely obey the gospel.

(^s 1Th 1:4-5; 2Pe 1:10; ^t Eph 1:6; Rom 11:33; ^u Rom 11:5-6,20; ^x Luk 10:20)

Chapter 4

4. Of Creation

1 In the beginning it pleased God the Father, ^aSon, and Holy Spirit, for the manifestation of the glory of ^bhis eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, to create or make the world, and all things therein, ^cwhether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good.

(^a Joh 1:2-3; Heb 1:2; Job 26:13; ^b Rom 1:20; ^c Col 1:16; Gen 1:31)

2 After God had made all other creatures, he created ^dman, male and female, with ^ereasonable and immortal souls, rendering them fit unto that life to God for which they were created; being ^fmade after the image of God, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness; having the law of God ^gwritten in their hearts, and power to fulfil it, and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was ^hsubject to change.

(^dGen 1:27; ^eGen 2:7; ^fEcc 7:29; Gen 1:26; ^gRom 2:14-15; ^hGen 3:6)

3 Besides the law written in their hearts, they received ⁱa command not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which whilst they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion ^kover the creatures. (ⁱGen 2:17; ^kGen 1:26-28)

Chapter 5

5. Of Divine Providence

1 God the good Creator of all things, in his infinite power and wisdom doth ^auphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures and things, from the greatest even to the ^bleast, by his most wise and holy providence, to the end for the which they were created, according unto his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his ^cown will; to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, infinite goodness, and mercy.

(^a Heb 1:3; Job 38:11; Isa 46:10-11; Psa 135:6; ^b Mat 10:29-31; ^c Eph 1:11)

2 Although in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first cause, all things come to pass ^dimmutably and infallibly; so that there is not anything befalls any ^eby chance, or without his providence; yet by the same providence he ordereth them to fall out according to the nature of second causes, either ^fnecessarily, freely, or contingently.

(^dAct 2:23; ^ePro 16:33; ^fGen 8:22)

3 God, in his ordinary providence ^gmaketh use of means, yet is free ^hto work without, ⁱabove, ^kand against them at his pleasure.

(^g Act 27:31,44; Isa 55:10-11; ^h Hos 1:7; ⁱ Rom 4:19-21; ^k Dan 3:27)

4 The almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness of God, so far manifest themselves in his providence, that his determinate counsel ^lextendeth itself even to the first fall, and all other sinful actions both of angels and men; and that not by a bare permission, which also he most wisely and powerfully ^mboundeth, and otherwise ordereth and governeth, in a manifold dispensation to his most holy ⁿends; yet so, as the

sinfulness of their acts proceedeth only from the creatures, and not from God, who, being most holy and righteous, neither is nor can be the author or ^oapprover of sin.

(^lRom 11:32-34; 2Sa 24:1; 1Ch 21:1; ^m2Ki 19:28; Psa 76:10; ⁿGen 50:20; Isa 10:6-7,12; ^oPsa 50:21; 1Jo 2:16)

5 The most wise, righteous, and gracious God doth oftentimes leave for a season his own children to manifold temptations and the corruptions of their own hearts, to chastise them for their former sins, or to discover unto them the hidden strength of corruption and deceitfulness of their hearts, ^pthat they may be humbled; and to raise them to a more close and constant dependence for their support upon himself; and to make them more watchful against all future occasions of sin, and for other just and holy ends. So that whatsoever befalls any of his elect is by his appointment, for his glory, ^qand their good.

(^p2Ch 32:25-26,31; 2Co 12:7-9; ^qRom 8:28)

6 As for those wicked and ungodly men whom God, as the righteous judge, for former sin doth ^rblind and harden; from them he not only withholdeth his ^sgrace, whereby they might have been enlightened in their understanding, and wrought upon their hearts; but sometimes also withdraweth ^tthe gifts which they had, and exposeth them to such ^uobjects as their corruption makes occasion of sin; and withal, ^xgives them over to their own lusts, the temptations of the world, and the power of Satan, whereby it comes to pass that they ^yharden themselves, under those means which God useth for the softening of others.

(^rRom 1:24-26,28; 11:7-8; ^sDeu 29:4; ^tMat 13:12; ^uDeu 2:30; 2Ki 8:12-13;

^xPsa 81:11-12; 2Th 2:10-12; ^yExo 8:15,32; Isa 6:9-10; 1Pe 2:7-8)

7 As the providence of God doth in general reach to all creatures, so after a more special manner it taketh care of his ^zchurch, and disposeth of all things to the good thereof.

(^z1Ti 4:10; Amo 9:8-9; Isa 43:3-5)

Chapter 6

6. Of the Fall of Man, of Sin, and of the Punishment Thereof

1 Although God created man upright and perfect, and gave him a righteous law, which had been unto life had he kept it, ^aand threatened death upon the breach thereof,

yet he did not long abide in this honour; ^bSatan using the subtlety of the serpent to subdue Eve, then by her seducing Adam, who, without any compulsion, did willfully transgress the law of their creation, and the command given unto them, in eating the forbidden fruit, which God was pleased, according to his wise and holy counsel to permit, having purposed to order it to his own glory.

(^aGen 2:16-17; ^bGen 3:12-13; 2Co 11:3)

2 Our first parents, by this sin, fell from their ^coriginal righteousness and communion with God, and we in them whereby death came upon all: ^dall becoming dead in sin, and wholly defiled ^ein all the faculties and parts of soul and body.

(^cRom 3:23; ^dRom 5:12, etc. ^eTi 1:15; Gen 6:5; Jer 17:9; Rom 3:10-19)

3 They being the ^froot, and by God's appointment, standing in the room and stead of all mankind, the guilt of the sin was imputed, and corrupted nature conveyed, to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation, being now ^gconceived in sin, and by nature children ^hof wrath, the servants of sin, the subjects ⁱof death, and all other miseries, spiritual, temporal, and eternal, unless the Lord Jesus ^kset them free.

(^fRom 5:12-19; 1Co 15:21-22,45,49; ^gPsa 51:5; Job 14:4;

^hEph 2:3; ⁱRom 6:20, 5:12; ^kHeb 2:14-15; 1Th 1:10)

4 From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly ^lindisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, ^mdo proceed all actual transgressions.

(^lRom 8:7; Col 1:21; ^mJam 1:14-15; Mat 15:19)

5 The corruption of nature, during this life, doth ⁿremain in those that are regenerated; and although it be through Christ pardoned and mortified, yet both itself, and the first motions thereof, are truly and properly ^osin.

(ⁿRom 7:18,23; Ecc 7:20; 1Jo 1:8; ^oRom 7:23-25; Gal 5:17)

Chapter 7

7. Of God's Covenant

1 The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience to him as their creator, yet they could never have attained

the reward of life but by some ^a voluntary condescension on God's part, which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.

(^a Luk 17:10; Job 35:7-8)

2 Moreover, man having brought himself ^bunder the curse of the law by his fall, it pleased the Lord to make a covenant of grace, wherein he freely offereth unto sinners ^c life and salvation by Jesus Christ, requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved; and ^dpromising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life, his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe.

(^bGen 2:17; Gal 3:10; Rom 3:20-21; ^c Rom 8:3; Mar 16:15-16; Joh 3:16; ^d Eze 36:26-27; Joh 6:44-45; Psa 110:3)

3 This covenant is revealed in the gospel; first of all to Adam in the promise of salvation by the ^eseed of the woman, and afterwards by farther steps, until the full ^f discovery thereof was completed in the New Testament; and it is founded in that ^{*}eternal covenant transaction that was between the Father and the Son about the redemption of the elect; and it is alone by the grace of this covenant that all the posterity of fallen Adam that ever were ^gsaved did obtain life and blessed immortality, man being now utterly incapable of acceptance with God upon those terms on which Adam stood in his state of innocency.

(^eGen 3:15; ^fHeb 1:1; ^{*}2Ti 1:9; Ti 1:2; ^gHeb 11:6,13; Rom 4:1-2, etc.; Act 4:12; Joh 8:56)

Chapter 8

8. Of Christ the Mediator

1 It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them both, ^ato be the mediator between God and man; the ^bprophet, ^cpriest, and ^dking; head and saviour of the church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world; unto whom he did from all eternity ^egive a people to be his seed and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

(^aIsa 42:1; 1Pe 1:19-20; ^bAct 3:22; ^cHeb 5:5-6; ^dPsa 2:6; Luk 1:33; Eph 1:22-23; Heb 1:2; Act 17:31; ^eIsa 53:10; Joh 17:6; Rom 8:30)

2 The Son of God, the second person in the Holy Trinity, being very and eternal God, the brightness of the Father's glory, of one substance and equal with him who made the world, who upholdeth and governeth all things he hath made, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him ^fman's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, ^syet without sin; being conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit coming down upon her: and the power of the Most High overshadowing her; ^hand so was made of a woman of the tribe of Judah, of the seed of Abraham and David according to the Scriptures; so that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion; which person is very God and very man, yet one ⁱChrist, the only mediator between God and man.

(^fJoh 1:14; Gal 4:4; ^sRom 8:3; Heb 2:14,16-17; 4:15; Mat 1:22-23; ^hLuk 1:27,31,35; ⁱRom 9:5; 1Ti 2:5)

3 The Lord Jesus, in his human nature thus united to the divine, in the person of the Son, was sanctified and anointed ^kwith the Holy Spirit above measure, having in Him ^lall the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; in whom it pleased the Father that ^mall fullness should dwell, to the end that being ⁿholy, harmless, undefiled, and full ^oof grace and truth, he might be thoroughly furnished to execute the office of mediator and ^psurety; which office he took not upon himself, but was thereunto ^qcalled by his Father; who also put ^rall power and judgement in his hand, and gave him commandment to execute the same.

(^kPsa 45:7; Act 10:38; Joh 3:34; ^lCol 2:3; ^mCol 1:19; ⁿHeb 7:26; ^oJoh 1:14; ^pHeb 7:22; ^qHeb 5:5; ^rJoh 5:22,27; Mat 28:18; Act 2:36)

4 This office the Lord Jesus did most ^swillingly undertake, which that he might discharge he was made under the law, ^tand did perfectly fulfil it, and underwent the ^upunishment due to us, which we should have borne and suffered, being made ^xsin and a curse for us; enduring most grievous sorrows ^yin his soul, and most painful sufferings in his body; was crucified, and died, and remained in the state of the dead, yet saw no ^zcorruption: on the ^athird day he arose from the dead with the same ^bbody in which he suffered, with which he also ^cascended into heaven, and there sitteth at the right hand of his Father ^dmaking intercession, and shall ^ereturn to judge men and angels at the end of the world.

(^sPsa 40:7-8; Heb 10:5-10; Joh 10:18; ^tGal 4:4; Mat 3:15; ^uGal 3:13; 1 Sa 53:6; 1Pe 3:18; ^x2Co 5:21; ^yMat 26:37-38; Luk 22:44; Mat 27:46; ^zAct 13:37; ^a1Co 15:3-4; ^bJoh 20:25,27; ^cMar 16:19; Act 1:9-11; ^dRom 8:34; Heb 9:24; ^eAct 10:42; Rom 14:9-10; Act 1:11; 2Pe 2:4)

5 The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he through the eternal Spirit once offered up unto God, ^fhath fully satisfied the justice of God, procured reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, ^sfor all those whom the Father hath given unto him.

(^fHeb 9:14, 10:14; Rom 3:25-26; ^sJoh 17:2; Heb 9:15)

6 Although the price of redemption was not actually paid by Christ till after his incarnation, ^{*}yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefit thereof were communicated to the elect in all ages, successively from the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices wherein he was revealed, and signified to be the seed which should bruise the serpent's head; ^hand the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, ⁱbeing the same yesterday, and today and for ever.

(^{*}1Co 10:4; Heb 4:2; 1Pe 1:10-11; ^hRev 13:8; ⁱHeb 13:8)

7 Christ, in the work of mediation, acteth according to both natures, by each nature doing that which is proper to itself; yet by reason of the unity of the person, that which is proper to one nature is sometimes in Scripture, attributed to the person ^kdenominated by the other nature.

(^kJoh 3:13; Act 20:28)

8 To all those for whom Christ hath obtained eternal redemption, he doth certainly and effectually ^lapply and communicate the same, making intercession for them; uniting them to himself by his Spirit, ^mrevealing unto them, in and by his Word, the mystery of salvation, persuading them to believe and obey, ⁿgoverning their hearts by his Word and Spirit, and ^oovercoming all their enemies by his almighty power and wisdom, in such manner and ways as are most consonant to his wonderful and ^punsearchable dispensation; and all of free and absolute grace, without any condition foreseen in them to procure it.

(^lJoh 6:37; 10:15-16; 17:9; Rom 5:10; ^mJoh 17:6; Eph 1:9; 1Jo 5:20; ⁿRom 8:9,14; ^oPsa 110:1; 1Co 15:25-26; ^pJoh 3:8; Eph 1:8)

9 This office of mediator between God and man is proper ^qonly to Christ, who is the prophet, priest, and king of the church of God; and may not be either in whole, or any part thereof, transferred from him to any other.

(^q1Ti 2:5)

10 This number and order of offices is necessary; for in respect of our ^rignorance, we stand in need of his prophetical office; and in respect of our alienation from God, ^sand 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 ^tto convince, subdue, draw, uphold, deliver, and preserve us to his heavenly kingdom.

(^rJoh 1:18; ^sCol 1:21; Gal 5:17; ^tJoh 16:8; Psa 110:3; Luk 1:74-75)

Chapter 9

9. Of Free Will

1 God hath endued the will of man with that natural liberty and power of acting upon choice, that it is ^aneither forced, nor by any necessity of nature determined to do good or evil.

(^aMat 17:12; Jam 1:14; Deu 30:19)

2 Man, in his state of innocency, had freedom and power to will and to do that ^bwhich was good and well-pleasing to God, but yet ^cwas mutable, so that he might fall from it.

(^bEcc 7:29; ^cGen 3:6)

3 Man, by his fall into a state of sin, hath wholly lost ^dall ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation; so as a natural man, being altogether averse from that good, ^eand dead in sin, is not able by his own strength to ^fconvert himself, or to prepare himself thereunto.

(^dRom 5:6, 8:7; ^eEph 2:1,5; ^fTi 3:3-5; Joh 6:44)

4 When God converts a sinner, and translates him into the state of grace, ^ghe freeth him from his natural bondage under sin, and by his grace alone enables him ^hfreely to will and to do that which is spiritually good; yet so as that by reason of his ⁱremaining

corruptions, he doth not perfectly, nor only will, that which is good, but doth also will that which is evil.

(^gCol 1:13; Joh 8:36; ^hPhi 2:13; ⁱRom 7:15,18-19,21,23)

5 This will of man is made ^kperfectly and immutably free to good alone in the state of glory only.

(^kEph 4:13)

Chapter 10

9. Of Effectual Calling

1 Those whom God hath predestinated unto life, he is pleased in his appointed and accepted time, ^aeffectually to call, by his Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation ^bby Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to ^cunderstand the things of God; taking away their ^dheart of stone, and giving unto them a heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and by his almighty power determining them ^eto that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ; yet so as they come ^fmost freely, being made willing by his grace.

(^aRom 8:30; 11:7; Eph 1:10-11; 2Th 2:13-14; ^bEph 2:1-6; ^cAct 26:18; Eph 1:17-18; ^dEze 36:26; ^eDeu 30:6; Eze 36:27; Eph 1:19; ^fPsa 110:3; Song 1:4)

2 This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, ^gnot from anything at all foreseen in man, nor from any power or agency in the creature, cworking with his special grace, ^hthe creature being wholly passive therein, being dead in sins and trespasses, until being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit; he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it, and that by no less ⁱpower than that which raised up Christ from the dead.

(^g2Ti 1:9; Eph 2:8; ^h1Co 2:14; Eph 2:5; Joh 5:25; ⁱEph 1:19-20)

3 Elect infants dying in infancy are ^kregenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit; who worketh when, and where, and ^lhow he pleases; so also are all elect persons, who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word.

(^kJoh 3:3,5-6; ^lJoh 3:8)

4 Others not elected, although they may be called by the ministry of the Word, ^mand may have some common operations of the Spirit, yet not being effectually drawn by the

Father, they neither will nor can truly ⁿcome to Christ, and therefore cannot be saved: much less can men that receive not the Christian religion ^obe saved; be they never so diligent to frame their lives according to the light of nature and the law of that religion they do profess.

(^mMat 22:14, 13:20-21; Heb 6:4-5; ⁿJoh 6:44-45,65;
1Jo 2:24-25; ^oAct 4:12; Joh 4:22; 17:3)

Chapter 11

10. Of Justification

1 Those whom God effectually calleth, he also freely ^ajustifieth, not by infusing righteousness into them, but by ^bpardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as ^crighteous; not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone; not by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other ^devangelical obedience to them, as their righteousness; but by imputing Christ's active obedience unto the whole law, and passive obedience in his death for their whole and sole righteousness, they ^ereceiving and resting on him and his righteousness, by faith, which faith they have not of themselves; it is the gift of God.

(^a Rom 3:24, 8:30; ^b Rom 4:5-8; Eph 1:7; ^c 1Co 1:30-31; Rom 5:17-19; ^d
Phi 3:8-9; Eph 2:8-10; ^e Joh 1:12; Rom 5:17)

2 Faith thus receiving and resting on Christ and his righteousness, is the ^falone instrument of justification; yet it is not alone in the person justified, but is ever accompanied with all other saving graces, and is no dead faith, ^gbut worketh by love.

(^f Rom 3:28; ^g Gal 5:6; Jam 2:17,22,26)

3 Christ, by his obedience and death, did fully discharge the debt of all those that are justified; and did, by the sacrifice of himself in the blood of his cross, undergoing in their stead the penalty due unto them, make a proper, real, and full satisfaction ^hto God's justice in their behalf; yet, inasmuch as he was given by the Father for them, and his obedience and satisfaction accepted in their stead, and both ⁱfreely, not for anything in them, their justification is only of free grace, that both the exact justice and rich grace of God might be ^kglorified in the justification of sinners.

(^h Heb 10:14; 1Pe 1:18-19; Isa 53:5-6; ⁱ Rom 8:32; 2Co 5:21; ^k
Rom 3:26; Eph 1:6-7, 2:7)

4 God did from all eternity decree to ^ljustify all the elect, and Christ did in the fullness of time die for their sins, and rise ^magain for their justification; nevertheless, they are not justified personally, until the Holy Spirit doth in time due ⁿactually apply Christ unto them.

(^lGal 3:8; 1Pe 1:2; 1Ti 2:6; ^mRom 4:25; ⁿCol 1:21-22; Ti 3:4-7)

5 God doth continue to ^oforgive the sins of those that are justified, and although they can never fall from the state of ^pjustification, yet they may, by their sins, fall under God's ^qfatherly displeasure; and in that condition they have not usually the light of his countenance restored unto them, until they ^rhumble themselves, confess their sins, beg pardon, and renew their faith and repentance.

(^oMat 6:12; 1Jo 1:7,9; ^pJoh 10:28

^qPsa 89:31-33; ^rPsa 32:5; Psa 51; Mat 26:75)

6 The justification of believers under the Old Testament was, in all these respects, ^sone and the same with the justification of believers under the New Testament.

(^sGal 3:9; Rom 4:22-24)

Chapter 12

11. Of Adoption

All those that are justified, God vouchsafed, in and for the sake of his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace ^aof adoption, by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and ^bprivileges of the children of God, have his ^cname put upon them, ^dreceive the spirit of adoption, ^ehave access to the throne of grace with boldness, are enabled to cry "Abba, Father," are ^fpitied, ^gprotected, ^hprovided for, and ⁱchastened by him as by a Father, yet never ^kcast off, but sealed ^lto the day of redemption, and inherit the promises ^mas heirs of everlasting salvation.

(^aEph 1:5; Gal 4:4-5; ^bJoh 1:12; Rom 8:17; ^c2Co 6:18; Rev 3:12;

^dRom 8:15; ^eGal 4:6; Eph 2:18; ^fPsa 103:13; ^gPro 14:26; ^h1Pe 5:7;

ⁱHeb 12:6; ^kIsa 54:8-9; Lam 3:31; ^lEph 4:30; ^mHeb 1:14; 6:12)

Chapter 13

12. Of Sanctification

1 They who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, are also ^afarther sanctified, really and personally, through the same virtue, ^bby His Word and Spirit dwelling in them; ^cthe dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed, ^dand the several lusts thereof are more and more weakened and mortified, and they more and more quickened and ^estrengthened in all saving graces, to the ^fpractice of all true holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

(^aAct 20:32; Rom 6:5-6; ^bJoh 17:17; Eph 3:16-19; 1Th 5:21-23;

^cRom 6:14; ^dGal 5:24; ^eCol 1:11; ^f2Co 7:1; Heb 12:14)

2 This sanctification is ^gthroughout the whole man, yet imperfect ^hin this life; there abideth still some remnants of corruption in every part, whence ariseth a ⁱcontinual and irreconcilable war; the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.

(^g1Th 5:23; ^hRom 7:18,23; ⁱGal 5:17; 1Pe 2:11)

3 In which war, although the remaining corruption for a time may much ^kprevail, yet through the continual supply of strength from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the ^lregenerate part doth overcome; and so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God, ^mpressing after an heavenly life, in evangelical obedience to all the commands which Christ as Head and King, in His Word hath prescribed them.

(^kRom 7:23; ^lRom 6:14; ^mEph 4:15-16; 2Co 3:18, 7:1)

Chapter 14

13. Of Saving Faith

1 The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ ^ain their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the ^bWord; by which also, and by the administration of baptism and the Lord's Supper, prayer, and other means appointed of God, it is increased ^cand strengthened.

(^a2Co 4:13; Eph 2:8; ^bRom 10:14,17; ^cLuk 17:5; 1Pe 2:2; Act 20:32)

2 By this faith a Christian believeth to be true ^{*}whatsoever is revealed in the Word for the authority of God himself, and also apprehendeth an excellency therein ^dabove all other writings and all things in the world, as it bears forth the glory of God in his attributes, the excellency of Christ in his nature and offices, and the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit in his workings and operations: and so is enabled to ^ecast his soul upon the truth thus believed; and also acteth differently upon that which each particular passage thereof containeth; yielding obedience to the ^fcommands, trembling at the ^gthreatenings, and embracing the ^hpromises of God for this life and that which is to come; but the principal acts of saving faith have immediate relation to Christ, accepting, receiving, and resting upon ⁱhim alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

(*Act 24:14; ^dPsa 19:7-10; 119:72; ^e2Ti 1:12; ^fJoh 15:14; ^gIsa 66:2; ^hHeb 11:13; ⁱJoh 1:12; Act 16:31; Gal 2:20; Act 15:11)

3 This faith, although it be different in degrees, and may be weak ^kor strong, yet it is in the least degree of it different in the kind or nature of it, as is all other saving grace, from the faith ^land common grace of temporary believers; and therefore, though it may be many times assailed and weakened, yet it gets ^mthe victory, growing up in many to the attainment of a full ⁿassurance through Christ, who is both the author ^oand finisher of our faith.

(^kHeb 5:13-14; Mat 6:30; Rom 4:19-20; ^l2Pe 1:1; ^mEph 6:16; 1Jo 5:4-5; ⁿHeb 6:11-12; Col 2:2; ^oHeb 12:2)

Chapter 15

14. Of Repentance unto Life and Salvation

1 Such of the elect as are converted at riper years, having ^asometime lived in the state of nature, and therein served divers lusts and pleasures, God in their effectual calling giveth them repentance unto life.

(^aTi 3:2-5)

2 Whereas there is none that doth good and sinneth ^bnot, and the best of men may, through the power and deceitfulness of their corruption dwelling in them, with the prevalency of temptation, fall into great sins and provocations; God hath, in the covenant

of grace, mercifully provided that believers so sinning and falling ^cbe renewed through repentance unto salvation.

(^bEcc 7:20; ^cLuk 22:31-32)

3 This saving repentance is an ^devangelical grace, whereby a person, being by the Holy Spirit made sensible of the manifold evils of his sin, doth, by faith in Christ, humble himself for it with godly sorrow, detestation of it, and self-aborrancy, ^epraying for pardon and strength of grace, with a purpose and endeavour, by supplies of the Spirit, to ^fwalk before God unto all well-pleasing in all things.

(^dZec 12:10; Act 11:18; ^eEze 36:31; 2Co 7:11; ^fPsa 119:6,128)

4 As repentance is to be continued through the whole course of our lives, upon the account of the body of death, and the motions thereof, so it is every man's duty to repent of his ^gparticular known sins particularly.

(^gLuk 19:8; 1Ti 1:13,15)

5 Such is the provision which God hath made through Christ in the covenant of grace for the preservation of believers unto salvation; that although there is no sin so small but it deserves ^hdamnation; yet there is no sin so great that it shall bring damnation on them that ⁱrepent; which makes the constant preaching of repentance necessary.

(^hRom 6:23; ⁱIsa 1:16-18, 55:7)

Chapter 16

15. Of Good Works

1 Good works are only such as God hath ^acommanded in his Holy Word, and not such as without the warrant thereof are devised by men out of blind zeal, ^bor upon any pretence of good intentions.

(^aMic 6:8; Heb 13:21; ^bMat 15:9; Isa 29:13)

2 These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences ^cof a true and lively faith; and by them believers manifest their ^dthankfulness, strengthen their ^eassurance, edify their ^fbrethren, adorn the profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of the adversaries, and glorify ^gGod, whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus ^hthereunto, that having their fruit unto holiness they may have the end ⁱeternal life.

(^cJam 2:18,22; ^dPsa 116:12-13; ^e1Jo 2:3,5; 2Pe 1:5-11; ^fMat 5:16; ^g1Ti 6:1; 1Pe 2:15; Phi 1:11; ^hEph 2:10; ⁱRom 6:22)

- 3** Their ability to do good works is not at all of themselves, but wholly from the Spirit ^kof Christ; and that they may be enabled thereunto, besides the graces they have already received, there is necessary and ^lactual influence of the same Holy Spirit, to work in them to will and to do of his good pleasure; yet they are not hereupon to grow negligent, as if they were not bound to perform any duty, unless upon a special motion of the Spirit, but they ought to be diligent in ^mstirring up the grace of God that is in them.

(^kJoh 15:4-5; ^l2Co 3:5; Phi 2:13; ^mPhi 2:12; Heb 6:11-12; Isa 64:7)

- 4** They who in their obedience attain to the greatest height which is possible in this life, are so far from being able to supererogate, and to do more than God requires, as that ⁿthey fall short of much which in duty they are bound to do.

(ⁿJob 9:2-3; Gal 5:17; Luk 17:10)

- 5** We cannot by our best works merit pardon of sin or eternal life at the hand of God, by reason of the great disproportion that is between them and the glory to come, and the infinite distance that is between us and God, whom by them we can neither profit nor satisfy for the debt of our ^oformer sins; but when we have done all we can, we have done but our duty, and are unprofitable servants; and because as they are good they proceed from his ^pSpirit, and as they are wrought by us they are defiled ^qand mixed with so much weakness and imperfection, that they cannot endure the severity of God's punishment.

(^oRom 3:20; Eph 2:8-9; Rom 4:6; ^pGal 5:22-23; ^qIsa 64:6; Psa 143:2)

- 6** Yet notwithstanding the persons of believers being accepted through Christ, their good works also are accepted in ^rhim; not as though they were in this life wholly unblameable and unreprovable in God's sight, but that he, looking upon them in his Son, is pleased to accept and reward that which is ^ssincere, although accompanied with many weaknesses and imperfections.

(^rEph 1:6; 1Pe 2:5; ^sMat 25:21,23; Heb 6:10)

- 7** Works done by unregenerate men, although for the matter of them they may be things which God commands, and of good use both to themselves and ^tothers; yet because they proceed not from a heart purified by ^ufaith, nor are done in a right manner according to the ^xWord, nor to a right end, the ^yglory of God, they are therefore sinful,

and cannot please God, nor make a man meet to receive grace from ^zGod, and yet their neglect of them is more sinful and ^adispleasing to God.

(^t2Ki 10:30; 1Ki 21:27,29; ^uGen 4:5; Heb 11:4,6; ^x1Co 13:1; ^yMat 6:2,5; ^zAmo 5:21-22; Rom 9:16; Ti 3:5; ^aJob 21:14-15; Mat 25:41-43)

Chapter 17

16. Of the Perseverance of the Saints

1 Those whom God hath accepted in the beloved, effectually called and sanctified by his Spirit, and given the precious faith of his elect unto, can neither totally nor finally fall from the state of grace, ^abut shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved, seeing the gifts and callings of God are without repentance, whence he still begets and nourisheth in them faith, repentance, love, joy, hope, and all the graces of the Spirit unto immortality; and though many storms and floods arise and beat against them, yet they shall never be able to take them off that foundation and rock which by faith they are fastened upon; notwithstanding, through unbelief and the temptations of Satan, the sensible sight of the light and love of God may for a time be clouded and obscured from ^bthem, yet he is still the same, ^cand they shall be sure to be kept by the power of God unto salvation, where they shall enjoy their purchased possession, they being engraven upon the palm of his hands, and their names having been written in the book of life from all eternity.

(^aJoh 10:28-29; Phi 1:6; 2Ti 2:19; 1Jo 2:19; ^bPsa 89:31-32; 1Co 11:32; ^cMal 3:6)

2 This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of ^delection, flowing from the free and unchangeable love of God the Father, upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ ^eand union with him, the ^foath of God, the abiding of his Spirit, and the ^gseed of God within them, and the nature of the ^hcovenant of grace; from all which ariseth also the certainty and infallibility thereof.

(^dRom 8:30; 9:11,16; ^eRom 5:9-10; Joh 14:19; ^fHeb 6:17-18; ^g1Jo 3:9; ^hJer 32:40)

3 And though they may, through the temptation of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of means of their

preservation, fall into grievous ⁱsins, and for a time continue therein, whereby they incur ^kGod's displeasure and grieve his Holy Spirit, come to have their graces and ^lcomforts impaired, have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded, ^mhurt and scandalize others, and bring temporal judgments ⁿupon themselves, yet shall they renew their ^orepentance and be preserved through faith in Christ Jesus to the end.

(^lMat 26:70,72,74; ^kIsa 64:5,9; Eph 4:30; ^lPsa 51:10,12; ^mPsa 32:3-4; ⁿ2Sa 12:14; ^oLuk 22:32,61-62)

Chapter 18

17. Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation

1 Although temporary believers, and other unregenerate men, may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favour of God and state of salvation, ^awhich hope of theirs shall perish; yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love him in sincerity, endeavouring to walk in all good conscience before him, may in this life be certainly assured ^bthat they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ^cashamed.

(^aJob 8:13-14; Mat 7:22-23; ^b1Jo 2:3; 3:14,18-19,21,24; 5:13; ^cRom 5:2,5)

2 This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon ^da fallible hope, but an infallible assurance of faith founded on the blood and righteousness of Christ ^erevealed in the Gospel; and also upon the inward ^fevidence of those graces of the Spirit unto which promises are made, and on the testimony of the ^gSpirit of adoption, witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God; and, as a fruit thereof, keeping the heart both ^hhumble and holy.

(^dHeb 6:11,19; ^eHeb 6:17-18; ^f2Pe 1:4-5,10-11; ^gRom 8:15-16; ^h1Jo 3:1-3)

3 This infallible assurance doth not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer may wait long, and conflict with many difficulties before he be ⁱpartaker of it; yet being enabled by the Spirit to know the things which are freely given him of God, he may, without extraordinary revelation, in the right use of means, ^kattain thereunto: and therefore it is the duty of every one to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure, that thereby his heart may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, in love

and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience, the proper ^lfruits of this assurance; so far is it ^mfrom inclining men to looseness.

(ⁱ Isa 50:10; Psa 88; 77:1-12; ^k 1Jo 4:13; Heb 6:11-12; ^l Rom 5:1-2,5; 14:17; Psa 119:32; ^m Rom 6:1-2; Ti 2:11-12,14)

4 True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as ⁿby negligence in preserving of it, by ^ofalling into some special sin which woundeth the conscience and grieveth the Spirit; by some sudden or ^pvehement temptation, by God's withdrawing the ^qlight of his countenance, and suffering even such as fear him to walk in darkness and to have no light, yet are they never destitute of the ^rseed of God and life ^sof faith, that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart and conscience of duty out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may in due time be ^trevived, and by the which, in the meantime, they are ^upreserved from utter despair.

(ⁿ Song 5:2-3,6; ^o Psa 51:8,12,14; ^p Psa 116:11; 77:7-8; 31:22; ^q Psa 30:7; ^r 1Jo 3:9; ^s Luk 22:32; ^t Psa 42:5,11; ^u Lam 3:26-31)

Chapter 19

18. Of the Law of God

1 God gave to Adam a law of universal obedience ^awritten in his heart, and a particular precept of not eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil; by which he bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual ^bobedience; promised life upon the fulfilling, and ^cthreatened death upon the breach of it, and endued him with power and ability to keep it.

(^a Gen 1:27; Ecc 7:29; ^b Rom 10:5; ^c Gal 3:10,12)

2 The same law that was first written in the heart of man ^dcontinued to be a perfect rule of righteousness after the fall, and was delivered by God upon Mount Sinai, in ^eten commandments, and written in two tables, the four first containing our duty towards God, and the other six our duty to man.

(^d Rom 2:14-15; ^e Deu 10:4)

3 Besides this law, commonly called moral, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel ceremonial laws, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, ^fprefiguring Christ, his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits; and partly holding forth

divers instructions ^gof moral duties, all which ceremonial laws being appointed only to the time of reformation, are, by Jesus Christ the true Messiah and only law-giver, who was furnished with power from the Father for that end, ^habrogated and taken away.

(^f Heb 10:1; Col 2:17; ^g 1Co 5:7; ^h Col 2:14,16-17; Eph 2:14,16)

4 To them also he gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the state of that people, not obliging any now by virtue of that institution; their general ⁱequity only being of moral use.

(ⁱ 1Co 9:8-10)

5 The moral law doth for ever bind all, ^kas well justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof, and that not only in regard of the matter contained in it, but also in respect of the ^lauthority of God the Creator, who gave it; neither doth Christ in the Gospel any way dissolve, ^mbut much strengthen this obligation.

(^k Rom 13:8-10; Jam 2:8,10-12; ^l Jam 2:10-11; ^m Mat 5:17-19; Rom 3:31)

6 Although true believers be not under the law as a covenant of works, ⁿto be thereby justified or condemned, yet it is of great use to them as well as to others, in that as a rule of life, informing them of the will of God and their duty, it directs and binds them to walk accordingly; ^odiscovering also the sinful pollutions of their natures, hearts, and lives, so as examining themselves thereby, they may come to further conviction of, humiliation for, and hatred against, sin; together with a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ and the perfection of his obedience; it is likewise of use to the regenerate to restrain their corruptions, in that it forbids sin; and the threatenings of it serve to shew what even their sins deserve, and what afflictions in this life they may expect for them, although freed from the curse and unallayed rigour thereof. The promises of it likewise shew them God's approbation of obedience, and what blessings they may expect upon the performance thereof, though not as due to them by the law as a covenant of works; so as man's doing good and refraining from evil, because the law encourageth to the one and deterreth from the other, is no evidence of his being ^punder the law and not under grace.

(ⁿ Rom 6:14; Gal 2:16; Rom 8:1; 10:4; ^o Rom 3:20; 7:7; etc.;

^p Rom 6:12-14; 1Pe 3:8-13)

7 Neither are the aforementioned uses of the law ^qcontrary to the grace of the Gospel, but do sweetly comply with it, the Spirit of Christ subduing ^rand enabling the will of man to do that freely and cheerfully which the will of God, revealed in the law, requireth to be done.

(^q Gal 3:21; ^r Eze 36:27)

Chapter 20

19. Of the Gospel, and Of the Extent
of the Grace Thereof

1 The covenant of works being broken by sin, and made unprofitable unto life, God was pleased to give forth the promise of Christ, ^athe seed of the woman, as the means of calling the elect, and begetting in them faith and repentance; in this promise the ^bgospel, as to the substance of it, was revealed, and [is] therein effectual for the conversion and salvation of sinners.

(^aGen 3:15; ^bRev 13:8)

2 This promise of Christ, and salvation by him, is revealed only by ^cthe Word of God; neither do the works of creation or providence, with the light of nature, ^dmake discovery of Christ, or of grace by him, so much as in a general or obscure way; much less that men destitute of the revelation of Him by the promise or gospel, ^eshould be enabled thereby to attain saving faith or repentance.

(^cRom 1:17; ^dRom 10:14-15,17; ^ePro 29:18; Isa 25:7; 60:2-3)

3 The revelation of the gospel unto sinners, made in divers times and by sundry parts, with the addition of promises and precepts for the obedience required therein, as to the nations and persons to whom it is granted, is merely of the ^fsovereign will and good pleasure of God; not being annexed by virtue of any promise to the due improvement of men's natural abilities, by virtue of common light received without it, which none ever did ^gmake, or can do so; and therefore in all ages, the preaching of the gospel has been granted unto persons and nations, as to the extent or straitening of it, in great variety, according to the counsel of the will of God.

(^fPsa 147:20; Act 16:7; ^gRom 1:18-32)

4 Although the gospel be the only outward means of revealing Christ and saving grace, and is, as such, abundantly sufficient thereunto; yet that men who are dead in trespasses may be born again, quickened or regenerated, there is moreover necessary an effectual insuperable ^hwork of the Holy Spirit upon the whole soul, for the producing in them a new spiritual life; without which no other means will effect ⁱtheir conversion unto God.

(^hPsa 110:3; 1Co 2:14; Eph 1:19-20; ⁱJoh 6:44; 2Co 4:4,6)

Chapter 21

20. Of Christian Liberty and
Liberty of Conscience

1 The liberty which Christ hath purchased for believers under the gospel, consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, the rigour and ^acurse of the law, and in their being delivered from this present evil ^bworld, bondage to ^cSatan, and dominion ^dof sin, from the ^eevil of afflictions, the fear and sting ^fof death, the victory of the grave, and ^geverlasting damnation: as also in their ^hfree access to God, and their yielding obedience unto Him, not out of slavish fear, ⁱbut a child-like love and willing mind. All which were common also to believers under the law ^kfor the substance of them; but under the New Testament the liberty of Christians is further enlarged, in their freedom from the yoke of a ceremonial law, to which the Jewish church was subjected, and in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the ^lfree Spirit of God, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of.

(^a Gal 3:13; ^b Gal 1:4; ^c Act 26:18; ^d Rom 8:3; ^e Rom 8:28; ^f 1Co 15:54-57;
^g 2Th 1:10; ^h Rom 8:15; ⁱ Luk 1:73-75; 1Jo 4:18; ^k Gal 3:9,14; ^l Joh 7:38-
39; Heb 10:19-21)

2 God alone is ^mLord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men ⁿwhich are in any thing contrary to his Word, or not contained in it. So that to believe such doctrines, or obey such commands out of conscience, ^ois to betray true liberty of conscience; and the requiring of an ^pimplicit faith, an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience and reason also.

(^m Jam 4:12; Rom 14:4; ⁿ Act 4:19; 5:29; 1Co 7:23; Mat 15:9; ^o
Col 2:20,22-23; ^p 1Co 3:5; 2Co 1:24)

3 They who upon pretence of Christian liberty do practice any sin, or cherish any sinful lust, as they do thereby pervert the main design of the grace of the gospel ^qto their own destruction, so they wholly destroy ^rthe end of Christian liberty, which is, that being delivered out of the hands of all our enemies, we might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our lives.

(^q Rom 6:1-2; ^r Gal 5:13; 2Pe 2:18,21)

Chapter 22

21. Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day

1 The light of nature shews that there is a God, who hath lordship and sovereignty over all; is just, good and doth good unto all; and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart and all the soul, ^aand with all the might. But the acceptable way of worshipping the true God, is ^binstituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshipped according to the imagination and devices of men, nor the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representations, or ^cany other way not prescribed in the Holy Scriptures.

(^aJer 10:7; Mar 12:33; ^bDeu 12:32; ^cExo 20:4-6)

2 Religious worship is to be given to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to him ^dalone; not to angels, saints, or any other ^ecreatures; and since the fall, not without a ^fmediator, nor in the mediation of any other but ^gChrist alone.

(^dMat 4:9-10; Joh 4:23; Mat 28:19; ^eRom 1:25; Col 2:18; Rev 19:10; ^fJoh 14:6; ^g1Ti 2:5)

3 Prayer, with thanksgiving, being one part of natural worship, is by God required of ^hall men. But that it may be accepted, it is to be made in the ⁱname of the Son, by the help ^kof the Spirit, according to ^lhis will; with understanding, reverence, humility, fervency, faith, love, and perseverance; and when with others, in a ^mknown tongue.

(^hPsa 95:1-7; 65:2; ⁱJoh 14:13-14; ^kRom 8:26; ^l1Jo 5:14; ^m1Co 14:16-17)

4 Prayer is to be made for things lawful, and for all sorts of men living, ⁿor that shall live hereafter; but not ^ofor the dead, nor for those of whom it may be known that they have sinned ^pthe sin unto death.

(ⁿ1Ti 2:1-2; 2Sa 7:29; ^o2Sa 12:21-23; ^p1Jo 5:16)

5 The ^qreading of the Scriptures, preaching, and ^rhearing the Word of God, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts to ^sthe Lord; as also the administration ^tof baptism, and ^uthe Lord's supper, are all parts of religious worship of God, to be performed in obedience to him, with understanding, faith, reverence, and godly fear; moreover, solemn humiliation, ^xwith fastings, and thanksgivings, upon ^yspecial occasions, ought to be used in an holy and religious manner.

(^q1Ti 4:13; ^r2Ti 4:2; Luk 8:18; ^sCol 3:16; Eph 5:19; ^tMat 28:19-20; ^u1Co 11:26; ^xEst 4:16; Joel 2:12; ^yExo 15:1-19, Psa 107)

6 Neither prayer nor any other part of religious worship, is now, under the gospel, tied unto, or made more acceptable by any place in which it is ^zperformed, or towards which it is directed; but God is to be worshipped everywhere in spirit and in truth; as in ^aprivate families ^bdaily, and ^cin secret each one by himself; so more solemnly in the public assemblies, which are not carelessly nor wilfully to be ^dneglected or forsaken, when God by his Word or providence calleth thereunto.

(^zJoh 4:21; Mal 1:11; 1Ti 2:8; ^aAct 10:2; ^bMat 6:11; Psa 55:17; ^cMat 6:6; ^dHeb 10:25; Act 2:42)

7 As it is the law of nature, that in general a proportion of time, by God's appointment, be set apart for the worship of God, so by his Word, in a positive moral, and perpetual commandment, binding all men, in all ages, he hath particularly appointed one day in seven for a ^esabbath to be kept holy unto him, which from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ was the last day of the week, and from the resurrection of Christ was changed into the first day of the week, ^fwhich is called the Lord's Day: and is to be continued to the end of the world as the Christian Sabbath, the observation of the last day of the week being abolished.

(^eExo 20:8; ^f1Co 16:1-2; Act 20:7; Rev 1:10)

8 The sabbath is then kept holy unto the Lord, when men, after a due preparing of their hearts, and ordering their common affairs aforehand, do not only observe an holy ^grest all day, from their own works, words and thoughts, about their worldly employment and recreations, but are also taken up the whole time in the public and private exercises of his worship, and in the duties ^hof necessity and mercy.

(^gIsa 58:13; Neh 13:15-22; ^hMat 12:1-13)

Chapter 23

22. Of Lawful Oaths and Vows

1 A lawful oath is a part of religious worship, ^awherein the person swearing in truth, righteousness, and judgement, solemnly calleth God to witness what he sweareth, ^band to judge him according to the truth or falseness thereof.

(^aExo 20:7; Deu 10:20; Jer 4:2; ^b2Ch 6:22-23)

2 The name of God only is that by which men ought to swear; and therein it is to be used, with all holy fear and reverence; therefore to swear vainly or rashly by that glorious and dreadful name, or to swear at all by any other thing, is sinful, and to be ^cabhorred; yet as in matter of weight and moment, for confirmation of truth, ^dand ending all strife, an oath is warranted by the Word of God; so a lawful oath being imposed ^eby lawful authority in such matters, ought to be taken.

(^c Mat 5:34,37; Jam 5:12; ^d Heb 6:16, 2Co 1:23; ^e Neh 13:25)

3 Whosoever taketh an oath warranted by the Word of God, ought duly to consider the weightiness of so solemn an act, and therein to avouch nothing but what he knoweth to be truth; for that by rash, false, and vain oaths, the ^fLord is provoked, and for them this land mourns.

(^f Lev 19:12; Jer 23:10)

4 An oath is to be taken in the plain and ^gcommon sense of the words, without equivocation or mental reservation.

(^g Psa 24:4)

5 A vow, which is not to be made to any creature, but to God alone, ^his to be made and performed with all religious care and faithfulness; but popish monastical vows ⁱof perpetual single life, professed ^kpoverty, and regular obedience, are so far from being degrees of higher perfection, that they are superstitious ^land sinful snares, in which no Christian may entangle himself.

(^h Psa 76:11; Gen 28:20-22; ⁱ 1Co 7:2,9; ^k Eph 4:28; ^l Mat 19:11)

Chapter 24

23. Of the Civil Magistrate

1 God, the supreme Lord and King of all the world, hath ordained civil ^amagistrates to be under him, over the people, for his own glory and the public good; and to this end hath armed them with the power of the sword, for defence and encouragement of them that do good, and for the punishment of evil doers.

(^a Rom 13:1-4)

2 It is lawful for Christians to accept and execute the office of a magistrate when called there unto; in the management whereof, as they ought especially to maintain

^bjustice and peace, according to the wholesome laws of each kingdom and commonwealth, so for that end they may lawfully now, under the New Testament ^cwage war upon just and necessary occasions.

(^b 2Sa 23:3; Psa 82:3-4; ^c Luk 3:14)

3 Civil magistrates being set up by God for the ends aforesaid; subjection, in all lawful things commanded by them, ought to be yielded by us in the Lord, not only for wrath, ^dbut for conscience sake; and we ought to make supplications and prayers for kings and all that are in authority, ^ethat under them we may live a quiet and peaceable life, in all godliness and honesty.

(^d Rom 13:5-7; 1Pe 2:17; ^e 1Ti 2:1-2)

Chapter 25

24. Of Marriage

1 Marriage is to be between one man and one woman; ^aneither is it lawful for any man to have more than one wife, nor for any woman to have more than one husband at the same time.

(^a Gen 2:24; Mal 2:15; Mat 19:5-6)

2 Marriage was ordained for the mutual help ^bof husband and wife, ^cfor the increase of mankind with a legitimate issue, and the ^dpreventing of uncleanness.

(^b Gen 2:18; ^c Gen 1:28; ^d 1Co 7:2,9)

3 It is lawful for ^eall sorts of people to marry, who are able with judgment to give their consent; yet it is the duty of Christians ^fto marry in the Lord; and therefore such as profess the true religion, should not marry with infidels, ^gor idolaters; neither should such as are godly, be unequally yoked, by marrying with such as are wicked in their life, or maintain damnable heresy.

(^e Heb 13:4; 1Ti 4:3; ^f 1Co 7:39; ^g Neh 13:25-27)

4 Marriage ought not to be within the degrees of consanguinity ^hor affinity, forbidden in the Word; nor can such incestuous marriages ever be made lawful, by any law of man or consent of parties, ⁱso as those persons may live together as man and wife.

(^h Lev 18; ⁱ Mar 6:18; 1Co 5:1)

Chapter 26

25. Of the Church

1 The catholic or universal church, which (with respect to the internal work of the Spirit and truth of grace) may be called invisible, consists of the whole ^anumber of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

(^a Heb 12:23; Col 1:18; Eph 1:10,22-23; 5:23,27,32)

2 All persons throughout the world, professing the faith of the gospel, and obedience unto God by Christ according unto it, not destroying their own profession by any errors everting the foundation, or unholiness of conversation, ^bare and may be called visible saints; ^cand of such ought all particular congregations to be constituted.

(^b 1Co 1:2; Act 11:26; ^c Rom 1:7; Eph 1:20-22)

3 The purest churches under heaven are subject ^dto mixture and error; and some have so degenerated as to become ^eno churches of Christ, but synagogues of Satan; nevertheless Christ always hath had, and ever shall have a ^fkingdom in this world, to the end thereof, of such as believe in him, and make profession of his name.

(^d 1Co 5; Rev 2-3; ^e Rev 18:2; 2Th 2:11-12;

^f Mat 16:18; Psalms 72:17; 102:28; Rev 12:17)

4 The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the church, in whom, by the appointment of the Father, ^gall power for the calling, institution, order or government of the church, is invested in a supreme and sovereign manner; neither can the Pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof, but is ^hthat antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalteth himself in the church against Christ, and all that is called God; whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.

(^g Col 1:18; Mat 28:18-20; Eph 4:11-12; ^h 2Th 2:2-9)

5 In the execution of this power wherewith he is so intrusted, the Lord Jesus calleth out of the world unto himself, through the ministry of his Word, by his Spirit, ⁱthose that are given unto him by his Father, that they may walk before him in all the ^kways of obedience, which he prescribeth to them in his Word. Those thus called, he commandeth

to walk together in particular societies, or ^lchurches, for their mutual edification, and the due performance of that public worship, which he requireth of them in the world.

(ⁱJoh 10:16; ^kJoh 12:32; Mat 28:20; ^lMat 18:15-20)

6 The members of these churches are ^msaints by calling, visibly manifesting and evidencing (in and by their profession and walking) their obedience unto that call of Christ; and do willingly consent to walk together, according to the appointment of Christ; giving up themselves to the Lord, and one to another, by the will of God, ⁿin professed subjection to the ordinances of the Gospel.

(^mRom 1:7; 1Co 1:2; ⁿAct 2:41-42; 5:13-14; 2Co 9:13)

7 To each of these churches thus gathered, according to his mind declared in his Word, he hath given all that ^opower and authority, which is in any way needful for their carrying on that order in worship and discipline, which he hath instituted for them to observe; with commands and rules for the due and right exerting, and executing of that power.

(^oMat 18:17-18; 1Co 5:4-5; 5:13; 2Co 2:6-8)

8 A particular church, gathered and completely organized according to the mind of Christ, consists of officers and members; and the officers appointed by Christ to be chosen and set apart by the church (so called and gathered), for the peculiar administration of ordinances, and execution of power or duty, which he intrusts them with, or calls them to, to be continued to the end of the world, are ^pbishops or elders, and deacons.

(^pAct 20:17,28; Phi 1:1)

9 The way appointed by Christ for the calling of any person, fitted and gifted by the Holy Spirit, unto the office of bishop or elder in a church, is, that he be chosen thereunto by the common ^qsuffrage of the church itself; and solemnly set apart by fasting and prayer, with imposition of hands of the ^reldership of the church, if there be any before constituted therein; and of a deacon ^sthat he be chosen by the like suffrage, and set apart by prayer, and the like imposition of hands.

(^qAct 14:23; ^r1Ti 4:14; ^sAct 6:3,5-6)

10 The work of pastors being constantly to attend the service of Christ, in his churches, in the ministry of the Word and prayer, ^twith watching for their souls, as they that must give an account to him; it is incumbent on the churches to whom they minister,

not only to give them all due respect, ^ubut also to communicate to them of all their good things according to their ability, so as they may have a comfortable supply, without being themselves ^xentangled in secular affairs; and may also be capable of exercising ^yhospitality towards others; and this is required by the ^zlaw of nature, and by the express order of our Lord Jesus, who hath ordained that they that preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

(^tAct 6:4; Heb 13:17; ^u1Ti 5:17-18; Gal 6:6-7; ^x2Ti 2:4; ^y1Ti 3:2; ^z1Co 9:6-

14)

11 Although it be incumbent on the bishops or pastors of the churches, to be instant in preaching the Word, by way of office, yet the work of preaching the Word is not so peculiarly confined to them but that others also ^agifted and fitted by the Holy Spirit for it, and approved and called by the church, may and ought to perform it.

(^aAct 11:19-21; 1Pe 4:1011)

12 As all believers are bound to join themselves to particular churches, when and where they have opportunity so to do; so all that are admitted unto the privileges of a church, are also ^bunder the censures and government thereof, according to the rule of Christ.

(^b1Th 5:14; 2Th 3:6,14-15)

13 No church members, upon any offence taken by them, having performed their duty required of them towards the person they are offended at, ought to disturb any churchorder, or absent themselves from the assemblies of the church, or administration of any ordinances, upon the account of such offence at any of their fellow members, but to wait upon Christ, ^cin the further proceeding of the church.

(^cMat 18:15-17; Eph 4:2-3)

14 As each church, and all the members of it, are bound to ^dpray continually for the good and prosperity of all the churches of Christ, in all places, and upon all occasions to further every one within the bounds of their places and callings, in the exercise of their gifts and graces, so the churches, when planted by the providence of God, so as they may enjoy opportunity and advantage for it, ought to hold ^ecommunion among themselves, for their peace, increase of love, and mutual edification.

(^dEph 6:18; Psalms 122:6; ^eRom 16:1-2; 3Jo 8-10)

15 In cases of difficulties or differences, either in point of doctrine or administration, wherein either the churches in general are concerned, or any one church, in their peace, union, and edification; or any member or members of any church are injured, in or by any proceedings in censures not agreeable to truth and order: it is according to the mind of Christ, that many churches holding communion together, do, by their messengers, meet to consider, ^fand give their advice in or about that matter in difference, to be reported to all the churches concerned; howbeit these messengers assembled, are not intrusted with any church-power properly so called; or with any jurisdiction over the churches themselves, to exercise any censures either over any churches or persons; or ^gto impose their determination on the churches or officers.

(^f Act 15:2,4,6,22-23,25; ^g 2Co 1:24; 1Jo 4:1)

Chapter 27

26. Of the Communion of Saints

1 All saints that are united to Jesus Christ, their head, by his Spirit, and faith, although they are not made thereby one person with him, have ^afellowship in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory; and, being united to one another in love, they ^bhave communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, in an orderly way, ^cas do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

(^a 1Jo 1:3; Joh 1:16; Phi 3:10; Rom 6:5-6; ^b Eph 4:15-16; 1Co 12:7; 3:21-23; ^c 1Th 5:11,14; Rom 1:12; 1Jo 3:17-18; Gal 6:10)

2 Saints by profession are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services ^das tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in ^eoutward things according to their several abilities, and necessities; which communion, according to the rule of the gospel, though especially to be exercised by them, in the relation wherein they stand, whether in ^ffamilies, or ^gchurches, yet, as God offereth opportunity, is to be extended to all the household of faith, even all those who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus; nevertheless their communion one with another as saints, doth not take away or ^hinfringe the title or propriety which each man hath in his goods and possessions.

(^d Heb 10:24-25; 3:12-13; ^e Act 11:29-30; ^f Eph 6:4; ^g 1Co 12:14-27; ^h Act 5:4; Eph 4:28)

Chapter 28

27. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

1 Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of positive and sovereign institution, appointed by the Lord Jesus, the only lawgiver, to be continued in his church ^ato the end of the world.

(^a Mat 28:19-20; 1Co 11:26)

2 These holy appointments are to be administered by those only who are qualified and thereunto called, according ^bto the commission of Christ.

(^b Mat 28:19; 1Co 4:1)

Chapter 29

28. Of Baptism

1 Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, to be unto the party baptized, a sign of his fellowship with him, in his death ^aand resurrection; of his being engrafted into him; of ^bremission of sins; and of ^cgiving up into God, through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life.

(^a Rom 6:3-5; Col 2:12; Gal 3:27; ^b Mar 1:4; Act 22:16; ^c Rom 6:4)

2 Those who do actually profess ^drepentance towards God, faith in, and obedience to, our Lord Jesus Christ, are the only proper subjects of this ordinance.

(^d Mar 16:16; Act 8:36-37; 2:41; 8:12; 18:8)

3 The outward element to be used in this ordinance ^eis water, wherein the party is to be baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(^e Mat 28:19-20; Act 8:38)

4 Immersion, or dipping of the person ^f in water, is necessary to the due administration of this ordinance.

(^f Mat 3:16; Joh 3:23)

Chapter 30

29. Of the Lord's Supper

1 The supper of the Lord Jesus was instituted by him the same night wherein he was betrayed, to be observed in his churches, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance, and shewing forth the sacrifice of himself in his death, ^aconfirmation of the faith of believers in all the benefits thereof, their spiritual nourishment, and growth in him, their further engagement in and to all duties which they owe to him; ^band to be a bond and pledge of their communion with him, and with each other.

(^a 1Co 11:23-26; ^b 1Co 10:16-17,21)

2 In this ordinance Christ is not offered up to his Father, nor any real sacrifice made at all for remission of sin of the quick or dead, but only a memorial of that ^cone offering up of himself by himself upon the cross, once for all; and a spiritual oblation of all ^dpossible praise unto God for the same. So that the popish sacrifice of the mass, as they call it, is most abominable, injurious to Christ's own sacrifice the alone propitiation for all the sins of the elect.

(^c Heb 9:25-26,28; ^d 1Co 11:24; Mat 26:26-27)

3 The Lord Jesus hath, in this ordinance, appointed his ministers to pray, and bless the elements of bread and wine, and thereby to set them apart from a common to a holy use, and to take and break the bread; to take the cup, ^eand, they communicating also themselves, to give both to the communicants.

(^e 1Co 11:23-26, etc.)

4 The denial of the cup to the people, worshipping the elements, the lifting them up, or carrying them about for adoration, and reserving them for any pretended religious use, ^fare all contrary to the nature of this ordinance, and to the institution of Christ.

(^f Mat 26:26-28; 15:9; Exo 20:4-5)

5 The outward elements in this ordinance, duly set apart to the use ordained by Christ, have such relation to him crucified, as that truly, although in terms used

figuratively, they are sometimes called by the names of the things they represent, to wit, the ^sbody and blood of Christ, albeit, in substance and nature, they still remain truly and only ^hbread and wine, as they were before.

(^s 1Co 11:27; ^h 1Co 11:26,28)

6 That doctrine which maintains a change of the substance of bread and wine, into the substance of Christ's body and blood, commonly called transubstantiation, by consecration of a priest, or by any other way, is repugnant not to Scripture ⁱalone, but even to common sense and reason, overthroweth the ^knature of the ordinance, and hath been, and is, the cause of manifold superstitions, yea, of gross idolatries.

(ⁱ Act 3:21; Luk 24:6,39; ^k 1Co 11:24-25)

7 Worthy receivers, outwardly partaking of the visible elements in this ordinance, do then also inwardly by faith, really and indeed, yet not carnally and corporally, but spiritually receive, and feed upon Christ crucified, ^land all the benefits of his death; the body and blood of Christ being then not corporally or carnally, but spiritually present to the faith of believers in that ordinance, as the elements themselves are to their outward senses.

(^l 1Co 10:16; 11:23-26)

8 All ignorant and ungodly persons, as they are unfit to enjoy communion ^mwith Christ, so are they unworthy of the Lord's table, and cannot, without great sin against him, while they remain such, partake of these holy mysteries, ⁿor be admitted thereunto; yea, whosoever shall receive unworthily, are guilty of the body and blood of the Lord, eating and drinking judgment to themselves.

(^m 2Co 6:14-15; ⁿ 1Co 11:29; Mat 7:6)

Chapter 31

30. Of the State of Man after Death and Of the Resurrection of the Dead

1 The bodies of men after death return to dust, ^aand see corruption; but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately ^breturn to God who gave them. The souls of the righteous being then made perfect in holiness, are

received into paradise, where they are with Christ, and behold the face of God in light^c and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies; and the souls of the wicked are cast into hell; where they remain in torment and utter darkness, reserved to^d the judgment of the great day; besides these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none.

(^a Gen 3:19; Act 13:36; ^b Ecc 12:7; ^c Luk 23:43; 2Co 5:1,6,8; Phi 1:23; Heb 12:3;
^dJude 1:6-7; 1Pe 3:19; Luk 16:23-24)

2 At the last day, such of the saints as are found alive, shall not sleep, but be^e changed; and all the dead shall be raised up with the selfsame bodies, and^f none other; although with different^g qualities, which shall be united again to their souls forever.

(^e 1Co 15:51-52; 1Th 4:17; ^f Job 19:26-27; ^g 1Co 15:42-43)

3 The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonour; the bodies of the just, by his Spirit, unto honour,^h and be made conformable to his own glorious body.

(^h Act 24:15; Joh 5:28-29; Phi 3:21)

Chapter 32

31. Of the Last Judgment

1 God hath appointed a day wherein he will judge the world in righteousness, by^a Jesus Christ; to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father; in which day, not only the^b apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon the earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, ^cto give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds, and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

(^a Act 17:31; Joh 5:22,27; ^b 1Co 6:3; Jude 1:6; ^c 2Co 5:10; Ecc 12:14; Mat 12:36; Rom 14:10,12; Mat 25:32-46)

2 The end of God's appointing this day, is for the manifestation of the glory of his mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect;^d and of his justice, in the eternal damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient; for then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fulness of joy and glory with everlasting rewards, in the presence^e of the Lord; but the wicked, who know not God, and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast aside into everlasting torments, and^f punished with

everlasting destruction, from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.

(^d Rom 9:22-23; ^e Mat 25:21,34; 2Ti 4:8; ^f Mat 25:46; Mar 9:48; 2Th 1:7-10)

- 3** As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both ^eto deter all men from sin, and for the greater ^hconsolation of the godly in their adversity, so will he have the day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the ⁱ Lord will come, and may ever be prepared to say, ^kCome Lord Jesus; come quickly. Amen.

(^g 2Co 5:10-11; ^h 2Th 1:5-7; ⁱ Mar 13:35-37; Luk 12:35-40; ^k Rev 22:20)

We, the ministers and messengers of, and concerned for, upwards of one hundred baptized congregations in England and Wales (denying Arminianism¹⁰), being met together in London, from the third of the seventh month to the eleventh of the same, 1689, to consider of some things that might be for the glory of God, and the good of these congregations, have thought meet (for the satisfaction of all other Christians that differ from us in the point of baptism) to recommend to their perusal the confession of our faith, which confession we own as containing the doctrine of our faith and practice, and do desire that the members of our churches respectively do furnish themselves therewith,

Hanserd Knollys Pastor Broken Wharf London
 William Kiffin Pastor Devonshire-square London
 John Harris Pastor Joiner's Hall London William Collins
 Pastor Petty France London
 Hercules Collins Pastor Wapping London Robert Steed
 Pastor Broken Wharf London
 Leonard Harrison Pastor Limehouse London George
 Barret Pastor Mile End Green London Isaac Lamb
 Pastor Pennington-street London Richard Adams
 Minister Shad Thames Southwark Benjamin Keach
 Pastor Horse-lie-down Southwark

¹⁰ **Arminianism** – system of doctrine taught by Jacobus Arminius (1560-1609), Dutch theologian. He rejected the Reformers' understanding of salvation by God's sovereign election, teaching instead that God's election of individuals was based on His foreknowledge of their accepting or rejecting Christ by their own free will.

Andrew Gifford	Pastor	Bristol, Fryars	Som. & Glouc.
Thomas Vaux	Pastor	Broadmead	Som. & Glouc.
Thomas Winnel	Pastor	Taunton	Som. & Glouc.
James Hitt	Preacher	Dalwood	Dorset
Richard Tidmarsh	Minister	Oxford City	Osen
William Facey	Pastor	Reading	Berks
Samuel Buttall	Minister	Plymouth	Devon
Christopher Price	Minister	Abergavenny	Monmouth
Daniel Finch	Minister	Kingsworth	Herts
John Ball	Minister	Tiverton	Devon
Edmond White	Pastor	Evershall	Bedford
William Pritchard	Pastor	Blaenau	Monmouth
Paul Fruin	Minister	Warwick	Warwick
Richard Ring	Pastor	Southampton	Hants
John Tompkins	Minister	Abingdon	Berks
Toby Willes	Pastor	Bridewater	Somerset
John Carter		Steventon	Bedford
James Webb		Devizes	Wilts.
Richard Sutton	Pastor	Tring	Herts
Robert Knight	Pastor	Stukeley	Bucks
Edward Price	Pastor	Hereford-City	Hereford
William Phipps	Pastor	Exon	Devon
William Hawkins	Pastor	Dimmock	Gloucester
Samuel Ewer	Pastor	Hemstead	Herts
Edward Man	Pastor	Houndsditch	London
Charles Archer	Pastor	Hick-Norton	Oxon

In the name of and on the behalf of the whole assembly.



THE BAPTIST CATECHISM

Benjamin Keach, a pastor who was involved in the development of the Confession, is often attributed with writing this catechism, which is also commonly known as “Keach’s Catechism.” It is likely that it was actually compiled by William Collins, another prominent pastor involved in drafting the Confession. The catechism was officially published by the British Baptists in 1693.

God’s Word

1. **Q.** Who is the first and chiefest being?
 A. God is the first and chiefest being (Isa 44:6; 48:12; Psa 97:9).
2. **Q.** Ought everyone to believe there is a God?
 A. Everyone ought to believe there is a God (Heb 11:6); and it is their great sin and folly who do not (Psa 14:1).
3. **Q.** How may we know there is a God?
 A. The light of nature in man and the works of God plainly declare there is a God (Rom 1:19-20; Psa 19:1-3; Act 17:24); but His Word and Spirit only do it fully and effectually for the salvation of sinners (1Co 2:10; 2Ti 3:15-16).¹¹
4. **Q.** What is the Word of God?
 A. The holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and the only certain rule of faith and obedience (2Ti 3:16; Eph 2:20).¹²
5. **Q.** May all men make use of the holy Scriptures?
 A. All men are not only permitted, but commanded and exhorted to read, hear, and understand the holy Scriptures (Joh 5:38; 17:17-18; Rev 1:3; Act 8:30).
6. What things are chiefly contained in the holy Scriptures?

¹¹ See Free Grace Broadcaster 171, *The Majesty of God*, available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

¹² See *The Infallible Word of God* by Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), and *The Doctrine of Revelation* by A. W. Pink (1886-1952); both available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

The holy Scriptures chiefly contain what man ought to believe concerning God, and what duty God requireth of man (2Ti 1:13; 3:15-16).

God

7. **Q.** What is God?

A. God is a Spirit (Joh 4:24), infinite (Job 11:7-9), eternal (Psa 110:2); and unchangeable (Jam 1:17) in His being (Exo 3:14), wisdom (Psa 147:5), power (Rev 4:8), holiness (Rev 15:4), justice, goodness, and truth (Exo 34:6).

8. **Q.** Are there more gods than one?

A. There is but one only: the living and true God (Deu 6:4; Jer 10:10).

9. **Q.** How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory (1Jo 5:7; Mat 28:19).¹³

10. **Q.** What are the decrees of God?

A. The decrees of God are His eternal purpose according to the counsel of His will, whereby, for His own glory, He hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass (Eph 1:4, 11; Rom 9:22-23; Isa 46:10; Lam 3:37).¹⁴

11. **Q.** How doth God execute His decrees?

A. God executeth His decrees in the works of creation and providence.

12. **Q.** What is the work of creation?

A. The work of creation is God's making all things of nothing, by the word of His power, in the space of six days, and all very good (Gen 1; Heb 11:3).¹⁵

13. **Q.** How did God create man?

A. God created man male and female, after His own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures (Gen 1:26-28; Col 3:10; Eph 4:24).

¹³ See Free Grace Broadcaster 231, *The Triune God*, and *The Trinity* by Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758); both available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

¹⁴ See FGB 237, *God's Decrees*, available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

¹⁵ See *Evolution or Creation?* and *Understanding the Times* by Ken Ham; both available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

14. What are God's works of providence?

God's works of providence are His most holy (Psa 145:17), wise (Isa 28:29; Psa 104:24), and powerful preserving (Heb 1:3) and governing all His creatures, and all their actions (Psa 103:19; Mat 10:29-31).¹⁶

15. **Q.** What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate wherein he was created?

A. When God had created man, He entered into a covenant of life with him upon condition of perfect obedience: forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death (Gal 3:12; Gen 2:17).

Sin

16. **Q.** Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created by sinning against God (Gen 3:6-8, 13; Ecc 7:29).

17. **Q.** What is sin?

A. Sin is any want¹⁷ of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God (1Jo 3:4).

18. **Q.** What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created?

A. The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created was their eating the forbidden fruit (Gen 3:6, 12, 16-17).

19. **Q.** Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

A. The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself but for his posterity, all mankind descending from him by ordinary generation sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression (Gen 2:16-17; Rom 5:12; 1Co 15:21-22).

20. **Q.** Into what estate did the Fall bring mankind?

A. The Fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery (Rom 5:12).

21. **Q.** Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

A. The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature,

¹⁶ See *God's Providence* by Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), and *The Sovereignty of God in Providence* by John Reisinger; both available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

¹⁷ **want** – lack.

which is commonly called original sin, together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it (Rom 5:12 to the end; Eph 2:1-3; Jam 1:14-15; Mat 15:19).¹⁸

22. What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?

All mankind by their fall lost communion with God (Gen 3:8, 10, 24), are under His wrath and curse (Eph 2:2-3; Gal 3:10), and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever (Lam 3:39; Rom 6:23; Mat 25:41, 46).

Jesus Christ

23. Q. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

A. God—having out of His mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life (Eph 1:4-5)—did enter into a Covenant of Grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer (Rom 3:20-22; Gal 3:21-22).

24. Q. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ (1Ti 2:5-6); Who, being the eternal Son of God, became man (Joh 1:14; Gal 4:4), and so was and continueth to be God and man in two distinct natures, and one person forever (Rom 9:5; Luk 1:35; Col 2:9; Heb 7:24-25).

25. Q. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man by taking to Himself a true body (Heb 2:14, 17; 10:5) and a reasonable¹⁹ soul (Mat 26:38); being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her (Luk 1:27, 31, 34-35, 42; Gal 4:4), yet without sin (Heb 4:15; 7:26).²⁰

26. Q. What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

A. Christ as our Redeemer executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of king, both in His estate of humiliation and exaltation (Act 3:22; Heb 12:25; 2Co 13:3; Heb 5:5-7; 7:25; Psa 2:6; Isa 9:6-7; Mat 21:5; Psa 2:8-11).

27. Q. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

¹⁸ See *Vile* and *The Doctrine of Human Depravity* by A. W. Pink (1886-1952); both available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

¹⁹ **reasonable** – capable of rational thought as a man.

²⁰ See Free Grace Broadcaster 234, *Incarnation*, available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

- A. Christ executeth the office of prophet in revealing to us, by His Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation (Joh 1:18; 1Pe 1:10-12; Joh 15:15; 20:31).
28. Q. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?
- A. Christ executeth the office of priest in His once offering up Himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice (Heb 9:14, 28) and reconcile us to God (Heb 2:17), and in making continual intercession for us (Heb 7:24-25).
29. How doth Christ execute the office of king?
- Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to Himself (Act 15:14-16), in ruling (Isa 33:22) and defending us (Isa 32:1-2), and in restraining and conquering all His and our enemies (1Co 15:25; Psa 110).²¹
30. Q. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?
- A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition (Luk 2:7), made under the Law (Gal 4:4); undergoing the miseries of this life (Heb 12:2-3; Isa 53:2-3), the wrath of God (Luk 22:44; Mat 27:46), and the cursed death of the cross (Phi 2:8); in being buried (1Co 15:3-4), and continuing under the power of death for a time (Act 2:24-27, 31; Mat 12:40).
31. Q. Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?
- A. Christ's exaltation consisteth in His rising again from the dead on the third day (1Co 15:4), in ascending up into heaven (Mar 16:19), in sitting at the right hand of God the Father (Eph 1:20), and in coming to judge the world at the Last Day (Act 1:11; 17:31).

Salvation

32. Q. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?
- A. We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us (Joh 1:11-12) by His Holy Spirit (Ti 3:5-6).²²
33. Q. How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

²¹ See *The Fountain of Life Opened (an excerpt)* by John Flavel (1630-1691), available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

²² See *The Holy Spirit's Work in Salvation* by A. W. Pink (1886-1952), available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

A. The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us (Eph 1:13-14; Joh 6:37, 39; Eph 2:8), and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling (Eph 3:17; 1Co 1:9).

34. **Q.** What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit (2Ti 1:9; 2Th 2:13-14) whereby—convincing us of our sin and misery (Act 2:37), enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ (Act 26:18), and renewing our wills (Eze 36:26-27)—He doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the gospel (Joh 6:44-45; Phi 2:13).

35. **Q.** What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification (Rom 8:30), adoption (Eph 1:5), sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them (1Co 1:30).

36. **Q.** What is justification?

Justification is an act of God's free grace wherein He pardoneth all our sins (Rom 3:24-25; 4:6-8) and accepteth us as righteous in His sight (2Co 5:19, 21), only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us (Rom 5:17-19) and received by faith alone (Gal 2:16; Phi 3:9).²³

37. **Q.** What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace (1Jo 3:1), whereby we are received into the number and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God (Joh 1:12; Rom 8:14-17).

38. **Q.** What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace (2Th 2:13) whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God (Eph 4:23-24), and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness (Rom 6:4, 6; 8:1).²⁴

39. **Q.** What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification are assurance of God's love, peace of conscience (Rom 5:1-2, 5), joy

²³ See Free Grace Broadcaster 187, *Justification*, available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

²⁴ See Free Grace Broadcaster 215, *Sanctification*, available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

in the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5, 17), increase of grace (Pro 4:18), and perseverance therein to the end (1Jo 5:13; 1Pe 1:5).

40. **Q.** What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?

A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness (Heb 12:23), and do immediately pass into glory (2Co 5:1, 6, 8; Phi 1:23; Luk 23:43); and their bodies being still united to Christ (1Th 4:14), do rest in their graves (Isa 57:2) till the resurrection (Job 19:26-27).²⁵

41. **Q.** What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A. At the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory (1Co 15:43), shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the Day of Judgment (Mat 25:23; 10:32), and made perfectly blessed both in soul and body, in the full enjoyment of God (1Jo 3:2; 1Co 13:12) to all eternity (1Th 4:17-18).²⁶

Judgment

42. **Q.** But what shall be done to the wicked at their death?

A. The souls of the wicked shall, at their death, be cast into the torments of hell, and their bodies lie in their graves till the resurrection and judgment of the great day (Luk 16:23-24; Act 2:24; Jude 1:5, 7; 1Pe 3:19; Psa 49:14).

43. **Q.** What shall be done to the wicked at the Day of Judgment?

A. At the Day of Judgment, the bodies of the wicked, being raised out of their graves, shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels forever (Joh 5:28-29; Mat 25:41, 46; 2Th 1:8-9).²⁷

Obedience

44. **Q.** What is the duty which God requireth of man?

A. The duty which God requireth of man is obedience to His revealed will (Mic 6:8; 1Sa 15:22).²⁸

45. **Q.** What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

²⁵ See *Concerning Death* by Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

²⁶ See FGB 175, *The Resurrection*, and *Heaven—A World of Love* by Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758); both available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

²⁷ See Free Grace Broadcaster 210, *Day of Judgment*, and *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* by Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758); both available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

²⁸ See FGB 232, *Obedience*, available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

- A.** The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law (Rom 2:14-15; 10:5).
46. **Q.** Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?
- A.** The moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments²⁹ (Deu 10:4; Mat 19:17).
47. **Q.** What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?
- A.** The sum of the Ten Commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbour as ourselves (Mat 22:37-40).
48. **Q.** What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?
- A.** The preface to the Ten Commandments is in these words: "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage" (Exo 20:2).
49. **Q.** What doth the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?
- A.** The preface to the Ten Commandments teacheth us that, because God is the Lord, and our God and redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all His commandments (Luk 1:74-75; 1Pe 1:15-19).
50. Which is the first commandment?
- The first commandment is, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exo 20:3).
51. **Q.** What is required in the first commandment?
- A.** The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God and our God (1Ch 28:9; Deu 26:17), and to worship and glorify Him accordingly (Mat 4:10; Psa 29:2).
52. **Q.** What is forbidden in the first commandment?
- A.** The first commandment forbiddeth the denying (Psa 14:1), or not worshipping and glorifying, the true God (Rom 1:21) as God and our God (Psa 81:10-11), and the giving of that worship and glory to any other which is due unto Him alone (Rom 1:25-26).

²⁹ See *The Ten Commandments from the Westminster Larger Catechism*, available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

53. **Q.** What are we especially taught by these words *before me* in the first commandment?
- A.** These words *before me* in the first commandment teach us that God, Who seeth all things, taketh notice of and is much displeased with the sin of having any other god (Exo 8:5 to the end).
54. **Q.** Which is the second commandment?
- A.** The second commandment is, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments” (Exo 20:4-6).³⁰
55. **Q.** What is required in the second commandment?
- A.** The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in His Word (Deu 32:46; Mat 23:20; Act 2:42).
56. **Q.** What is forbidden in the second commandment?
- A.** The second commandment forbiddeth the worshipping of God by images (Deu 4:15-19; Exo 32:5, 8), or any other way not appointed in His Word (Deu 7:31-32).
57. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?
- The reasons annexed to the second commandment are God’s sovereignty over us (Psa 45:2-3, 6), His propriety in us (Psa 45:11), and the zeal He hath to His own worship (Exo 34:13-14).
58. **Q.** Which is the third commandment?
- A.** The third commandment is, “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain” (Exo 20:7).³¹
59. **Q.** What is required in the third commandment?

³⁰ See *Pictures of the Christ* by J. Marcellus Kik, available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

³¹ See *The Swearer’s Prayer: His Oath Explained*, available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

- A. The third commandment requireth the holy and reverent use of God's names (Mat 6:9; Deu 28:58), titles (Psa 68:4), attributes (Rev 15:3-4), ordinances (Mal 1:11, 14), Word (Psa 136: 1-2) and works (Job 36:24).
60. Q. What is forbidden in the third commandment?
- A. The third commandment forbiddeth all profaning and abusing of anything whereby God makes Himself known (Mal 1:6-7, 12; 2:2; 3:14).
61. Q. What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?
- A. The reason annexed to the third commandment is that, however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape His righteous judgment (1Sa 2:12, 17, 22, 29; 3:13; Deu 28:58-59).
62. Q. What is the fourth commandment?
- A. The fourth commandment is, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exo 20:8-11).³²
63. Q. What is required in the fourth commandment?
- A. The fourth commandment requireth the keeping holy to God such set times as He hath appointed in His Word, expressly, one whole day in seven to be a holy Sabbath to Himself (Exo 20:8-11; Deu 5:12-14).
64. Which day of the seven hath God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?
- Before the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath (Exo 20:8-11; Deu 5:12-14); and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian Sabbath (Psa 118:24; Mat 28:1; Mar 2:27-28; Joh 20:19-20, 26; Rev 1:10; Mar 16:2; Luk 24:1, 3036; Joh 20:1; Act 1:3; 2:1-2; 20:7; 1Co 16:1-2).
65. Q. How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?
- A. The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day (Exo 20:8, 10), even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days (Exo

³² See Free Grace Broadcaster 233, *The Lord's Day*; available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

16:25-28; Neh 13:15-22); and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship (Luk 4:16; Act 20:7; Psa 92 title; Isa 66:23), except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy (Mat 12:1-13).

66. **Q.** What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment forbiddeth the omission or careless performance of the duties required (Eze 22:26; Amo 8:5; Mal 1:13), and the profaning the day by idleness (Act 20:7, 9), or doing that which is in itself sinful (Eze 23:38), or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works about worldly employments or recreations (Jer 17:24-27; Isa 58:13).

67. **Q.** What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment?

A. The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment are God's allowing us six days of the week for our own lawful employments (Exo 20:9), His challenging a special propriety in a seventh, His own example, and His blessing the Sabbath day (Exo 20:11).

68. **Q.** Which is the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment is, "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee" (Exo 20:12).³³

69. **Q.** What is required in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honour and performing the duties belonging to everyone in their several places and relations: as superiors (Eph 5:21), inferiors (1Pe 2:17), or equals (Rom 12:10).

70. **Q.** What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglect of, or doing any thing against, the honour and duty which belongeth to everyone in their several places and relations (Mat 15:4-6; Eze 34:24; Rom 13:8).

71. **Q.** What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?

The reason annexed to the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment (Deu 5:16; Eph 6:2-3).

72. **Q.** What is the sixth commandment?

³³ See Free Grace Broadcaster 208, *Duties of Sons and Daughters* and *The Duties of Children and Parents* by Richard Adams (1626-1698); both available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

- A. The sixth commandment is, “Thou shalt not kill” (Exo 20:13).
73. Q. What is required in the sixth commandment?
- A. The sixth commandment requireth all lawful endeavours to preserve our own life (Eph 5:28-29) and the life of others (1Ki 18:4).
74. Q. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?
- A. The sixth commandment absolutely forbiddeth the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbour unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto (Act 26:28; Gen 9:9).
75. Q. Which is the seventh commandment?
- A. The seventh commandment is, “Thou shalt not commit adultery” (Exo 20:14).
76. Q. What is required in the seventh commandment?
- A. The seventh commandment requireth the preservation of our own and our neighbors’ chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior (1Co 7:2-3, 5, 34, 36; Col 4:6; 1Pe 3:2).
77. Q. What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?
- A. The seventh commandment forbiddeth all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions (Mat 15:19; 5:28; Eph 5:3-4).
78. Q. Which is the eighth commandment?
- A. The eighth commandment is, “Thou shalt not steal” (Exo 20:15).³⁴
79. Q. What is required in the eighth commandment?
- A. The eighth commandment requireth the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others (Gen 30:30; 1Ti 5:8; Lev 25:35; Deu 22:1-5; Exo 23:4-5; Gen 47:14, 20).
80. Q. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?
- A. The eighth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever doth or may unjustly hinder our own (1Ti 5:8; Pro 28:19) or our neighbour’s wealth or outward estate (Pro 21:17; 23:20-21; Eph 4:28).
81. Which is the ninth commandment?

³⁴ See *Greasy the Robber* by Charles Lukesh, and *The Sin of Stealing* by L. R. Shelton, Jr.; available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

The ninth commandment is, “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour” (Exo 20:16).³⁵

82. **Q.** What is required in the ninth commandment?
A. The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man (Zec 8:16), and of our own neighbour’s good name (Joh 5:12), especially in witnessbearing (Pro 14:5, 25).
83. **Q.** What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?
A. The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to the truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbour’s good name (1Sa 17:28; Lev 19:16; Psa 15:2-3).
84. **Q.** Which is the tenth commandment?
A. The tenth commandment is, “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s” (Exo 20:17).³⁶
85. **Q.** What is required in the tenth commandment?
A. The tenth commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition (Heb 13:5; 1Ti 6:6), with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbour and all that is his (Job 31:29; Rom 7:15; 1Ti 1:5; 1Co 8:4, 7).
86. **Q.** What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?
A. The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate (1Ki 21:4; Est 5:13; 1Co 10:10), envying or grieving at the good of our neighbour (Gal 5:26; Jam 3:14, 16), and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his (Rom 7:7-8; 13:9; Deu 5:21).
87. **Q.** Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?
A. No mere man since the Fall is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God (Ecc 7:20; 1Jo 1:8, 10; Gal 5:17), but doth daily break them in thought, word, or deed (Gen 4:5; 7:21; Rom 3:9-21; Jam 3:2-13).
88. **Q.** Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

³⁵ See *The Sin of Lying* by L. R. Shelton, Jr.; available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

³⁶ See Free Grace Broadcasters 213, *Contentment*; and 167, *Covetousness*; and *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment* by Jeremiah Burroughs (1599-1646); all available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others (Eze 8:6, 13, 15; 1Jo 5:16; Psa 78:17, 32, 56).

89. Q. What doth every sin deserve?

Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life and that which is to come (Eph 5:6; Gal 3:10; Lam 3:39; Mat 25:41; Rom 6:23).

Faith and Repentance

90. Q. What doth God require of us that we may escape His wrath and curse due to us for sin?

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life (Act 20:21), with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption (Pro 2:1-6; 8:33 to end; Isa 55:2-3).

91. Q. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace (Heb 10:39) whereby we receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the gospel (Joh 1:12; Isa 26:34; Phi 3:9; Gal 2:16).³⁷

92. Q. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace (Act 11:28) whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin (Act 2:37-38) and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ (Joe 2:12; Jer 3:22), doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God (Jer 31:18-19; Eze 36:31), with full purpose of and endeavour after new obedience (2Co 7:11; Isa 1:16-17).³⁸

93. Q. What are the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?

A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption are His ordinances, especially the Word, baptism, the Lord's Supper, and prayer; all which means are made effectual to the elect for salvation (Mat 28:19-20; Act 2:42, 46-47).

³⁷ See Free Grace Broadcaster 157, *Faith*, and *Faith* by Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892); both available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

³⁸ See FGB 203, *Repentance*, and *The Marks of True Repentance and Saving Faith*, by Jonathan Dickinson (1688-1747); both available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

94. **Q.** How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching, of the Word an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation (Neh 8:8; Act 26:18; Psa 19:8; Act 20:32; Rom 1:15-16; 10:13-17; 15:4; 1Co 14:24-25; 2Ti 3:15-17).

95. How is the Word to be read and heard that it may become effectual to salvation?

That the Word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence (Pro 8:34), preparation (1Pe 2:1-2), and prayer (Psa 119:18); receive it with faith and love (Heb 4:2; 2Th 2:10), lay it up in our hearts (Psa 119:18), and practice it in our lives (Luk 8:15; Jam 1:25).

Baptism

96. **Q.** How do baptism and the Lord's Supper become effectual means of salvation?

A. Baptism and the Lord's Supper become effectual means of salvation, not for any virtue in them or in him that doth administer them, but only by the blessing of Christ (1Pe 3:21; Mat 3:11; 1Co 3:6-7) and the working of the Spirit in those that by faith receive them (1Co 12:3; Mat 28:19).

97. **Q.** What is baptism?

A. Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament instituted by Jesus Christ, to be unto the party baptized a sign of his fellowship with Him in His death, burial, and resurrection; of his being engrafted into Him (Rom 6:3-5; Col 2:12; Gal 3:27); of remission of sins (Mar 1:4; Act 2:38; 22:16); and of his giving up himself unto God through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life (Rom 6:3-4).³⁹

98. **Q.** To whom is baptism to be administered?

A. Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God (Act 2:38; Mat 3:6), faith in, and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, and to none other (Act 8:12, 36-38; 10:47-48).

99. **Q.** Are the infants of such as are professing believers to be baptized?

A. The infants of such as are professing believers are not to be baptized, because there is neither command or example in the holy Scriptures, or certain consequence from them, to baptize such (Exo 23:13; Pro 30:6; Luk 3:7-8).

³⁹ See *Baptism: A Burial* by Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892) and *Baptism: The Heaven-drawn Picture* by Peter Masters; both available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

100. **Q.** How is baptism rightly administered?

A. Baptism is rightly administered by immersion, or dipping the whole body of the party in water, into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, according to Christ's institution and the practice of the apostles (Mat 3:16; Joh 3:23; 4:1-2; Mat 28:19-20; Act 8:38; Rom 6:4; Col 2:12); and not by sprinkling or pouring of water, or dipping some part of the body, after the tradition of men.

101. **Q.** What is the duty of such who are rightly baptized?

A. It is the duty of such who are rightly baptized to give up themselves to some particular and orderly church of Jesus Christ, that they may walk in all the command-

ments and ordinances of the Lord blameless (Act 2:41-42; 5:13-14; 9:26; 1Pe 2:5; Luk 1:6).

The Lord's Supper

102. **Q.** What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ, wherein by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to His appointment, His death is shown forth and the worthy receivers are—not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith—made partakers of His body and blood, with all His benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace (Mat 26:26-28; 1Co 11:23-26; 10:16).

103. **Q.** Who are the proper subjects of this ordinance?

A. They who have been baptized upon a personal profession of their faith in Jesus Christ, and repentance from dead works (Act 2:41-42).

104. **Q.** What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

A. It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body (1Co 11:28-29), of their faith to feed upon Him (2Co 13:5), of their repentance (1Co 11:31), love (1Co 10:16-17), and new obedience (1Co 5:7-8), lest coming unworthily they eat and drink judgment to themselves (1Co 11:28-29).

Prayer

105. **Q.** What is prayer?

A. Prayer is an offering up our desires to God (Psa 62:8), by the assistance of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:26), for things agreeable to His will (1Jo 5:14; Rom 8:27), in the name of Christ (Joh 16:23), believing (Mat 21:22; Jam 1:6), with confession of our sins (Psa 32:5-6; Dan 9:4) and thankful acknowledgments of His mercies (Phi 4:6).⁴⁰

106. **Q.** What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?

A. The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer (1Jo 5:14); but the special rule of direction is that prayer which Christ taught His disciples, commonly called the Lord's Prayer (Mat 6:9-13; Luk 11:2-4).

⁴⁰ See *True Prayer—True Power* and *Effective Prayer* by Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), and *A Call to Prayer* by J. C. Ryle (1816-1900); all available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

107. **Q.** What doth the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A. The preface of the Lord's Prayer, which is "Our Father which art in heaven" (Mat 6:9), teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father able and ready to help us (Rom 8:15; Luk 11:13; Isa 24:8); and that we should pray with and for others (Act 12:5; 1Ti 2:1-2).

108. **Q.** What do we pray for in the first petition?

In the first petition, which is "Hallowed be thy name" (Mat 6:9), we pray that God would enable us and others to glorify Him in all that whereby He maketh Himself known (Psa 67:2-3), and that He would dispose all things to His own glory (Psa 83; Rom 11:36).

109. **Q.** What do we pray for in the second petition?

A. In the second petition, which is "Thy kingdom come" (Mat 6:10), we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed (Psa 68:1, 18) and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced (Rev 12:10-11), ourselves and others brought into it and kept in it (2Th 3:1; Rom 10:1; Joh 17:19-20), and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened (Rev 22:10).

110. **Q.** What do we pray for in the third petition?

A. In the third petition, which is "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven" (Mat 6:10), we pray that God by His grace would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to His will in all things (Psa 67; 119:36; 2Sa 15:25; Job 1:21), as the angels do in heaven (Psa 103:20-21).

111. **Q.** What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

A. In the fourth petition, which is "Give us this day our daily bread" (Mat 6:11), we pray that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy His blessing with them (Pro 30:8; Gen 28:20; 1Ti 4:4-5).

112. **Q.** What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

A. In the fifth petition, which is "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Mat 6:12), we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins (Psa 51:1-2, 7, 9; Dan 9:17-19); which we are rather encouraged to ask because, of His grace, we are enabled from the heart to forgive others (Luk 11:4; Mat 18:35).

113. **Q.** What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

A. In the sixth petition, which is "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Mat 6:13), we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin (Mat 26:31), or support and deliver us when we are tempted (2Co 12:8).

114. **Q.** What doth the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach?

A. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen" (Mat 6:13), teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only (Dan 9:4, 7-9, 16-19), and in our prayers to praise Him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to Him (1Ch 29:10-13). And in testimony of our desire and assurance to be heard, we say, "Amen" (1Co 4:16; Rev 11:20; 22:20, 21).



Appendix 1

ON BAPTISM

*Why the Baptist authors of the Confession advocated
baptism of believers and rejected infant baptism*

Introduction

Whosoever reads and impartially considers what we have in our foregoing confession declared may readily perceive that we do not only concenter⁴¹ with all other true Christians on the Word of God (revealed in the Scriptures of truth) as the foundation and rule of our faith and worship, but that we have also industriously endeavoured to manifest that, in the fundamental articles of Christianity, we mind the same things—and

⁴¹ **concenter** – meet in a common center.

have therefore expressed our belief in the same words⁴² that have on the like occasion been spoken by other societies of Christians before us.

This we have done that those who are desirous to know the principles of religion which we hold and practice may take an estimate from ourselves (who jointly concur in this work) and may not be misguided, either by undue reports or by the ignorance or errors of particular persons, who, going under the same name with ourselves, may give an occasion of scandalizing the truth we profess.

And although we do differ from our brethren who are paedobaptists⁴⁵ in the subject and administration of baptism, and such other circumstances as have a necessary dependence on our observance of that ordinance, and do frequent our own assemblies for our mutual edification and discharge of those duties and services which we owe unto God, and in His fear to each other—yet we would not be from hence misconstrued, as if the discharge of our own consciences herein did any ways disoblige or alienate our affections or conversation from any others that fear the Lord; but that we may and do, as we have opportunity, participate of the labors of those whom God hath endued with abilities above ourselves, and qualified and called to the ministry of the Word, earnestly desiring to approve ourselves to be such as follow after peace with holiness, and therefore we always keep that blessed *Irenicum*, or healing Word of the apostle before our eyes: “If in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless,

⁴² **same words** – reference to *The Westminster Confession* (1647) and *Savoy Declaration* (1658). ⁴⁵

paedobaptists – those who believe the Scriptures teach the baptism of infants.

whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing” (Phi 3:15-16).

Let it not therefore be judged of us (because much hath been written on this subject, and yet we continue this our practice different from others) that it is out of obstinacy, but rather as the truth is: that we do herein according to the best of our understandings worship God, out of a pure mind yielding obedience to His precept in that method which we take to be most agreeable to the Scriptures of truth and primitive practice.

It would not become us to give any such intimation as should carry a semblance that what we do in the service of God is with a doubting conscience, or with any such temper of mind that we do thus for the present, with a reservation that we will do otherwise hereafter upon more mature deliberation. Nor have we any cause so to do, being fully persuaded that what we do is agreeable to the will of God. Yet we do heartily propose this, that if any of the servants of our Lord Jesus shall, in the spirit of meekness, attempt to convince us of any mistake either in judgment or practice, we shall diligently ponder his arguments and account him our chiefest friend that shall be an instrument to convert us from any error that is in our ways—for we cannot wittingly do anything against the truth, but all things for the truth.

And therefore we have endeavoured seriously to consider what hath been already offered for our satisfaction in this point, and are loath to say any more lest we should be esteemed desirous of renewed contests thereabout. Yet forasmuch as it may justly be expected that we show some reason why we cannot acquiesce in what hath been urged against us, we shall with as much brevity as may consist with plainness, endeavour to satisfy the expectation of those that shall peruse what we now publish in this matter also.

1. Tradition

As to those Christians who consent with us that repentance from dead works, and faith towards God and our Lord Jesus Christ, is required in persons to be baptized, and do therefore supply the defect of the infant (being incapable of making confession of either) by others who do undertake these things for it—although we do find by Church history⁴³ that this hath been a very ancient practice—yet considering that the same Scripture which does caution us against censuring our brother, with whom we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, does also instruct us that every one of us shall give an account of himself to God, and whatsoever is not of faith is sin (Rom 14:4, 10, 12, 23): therefore we cannot, for our own parts, be persuaded in our own minds to build such a practice as this upon an unwritten tradition; but do rather choose in all points of faith and worship to

⁴³ See *A Glorious Institution: The Church in History*, Part 3, by Stanford E. Murrell; available from CHAPEL LIBRARY.

have recourse to the holy Scriptures for the information of our judgment and regulation of our practice—being well assured that a conscientious attending thereto is the best way to prevent and rectify our defects and errors (2Ti 3:1617). And if any such case happen to be debated between Christians, which is not plainly determinable by the Scriptures, we think it safest to leave such things undecided until the second coming of our Lord Jesus—as they did in the Church of old until there should arise a priest with Urim and Thummim,⁴⁴ that might certainly inform them of the mind of God thereabout (Ezr 2:62-63).

2. *Covenant*

As for those our Christian brethren who do ground their arguments for infants' baptism upon a presumed federal⁴⁵ holiness or church membership, we conceive they are deficient in this: that albeit this covenant-holiness and membership should be as is supposed in reference unto the infants of believers, yet no command for infant baptism does immediately and directly result from such a quality or relation.

All instituted worship receives its sanction from the precept, and is to be thereby governed in all the necessary circumstances thereof.

So it was in the covenant that God made with Abraham and his seed, the sign whereof was appropriated only to the male, notwithstanding that the female seed as well as the male were comprehended in the covenant and part of the Church of God; neither was this sign to be affixed to any male infant till he was eight days old, albeit he was within the covenant from the first moment of his life; nor could the danger of death, or any other supposed necessity, warrant the circumcising of him before the set time, nor was there any cause for it; the commination⁴⁶ of being cut off from his people being only upon the neglect or contempt of the precept.

Righteous Lot was nearly⁵⁰ related to Abraham in the flesh, and contemporary with him, when this covenant was made (Gen 17:10); yet inasmuch as he did not descend from his loins, nor was of his household family (although he was of the same household of faith with Abraham), yet neither Lot himself nor any of his posterity (because of their descent from him) were signed with the signature of this covenant that was made with Abraham and his seed.

⁴⁴ **Urim and Thummim** – Two items on the breastplate of the high priest (Exo 28:30), exactly what these were cannot be determined with certainty; a specific divinely-given means by which God imparted, through the high priest, direction and counsel to Israel when these were needed.

⁴⁵ **federal** – pertaining to a covenant.

⁴⁶ **commination** – threat of punishment. ⁵⁰

nearly – closely.

This may suffice to show that where there was both an express covenant and a sign thereof (Gen 17:4, 10)—such a covenant as did separate the persons with whom it was made and all their offspring from all the rest of the world as a people holy unto the Lord, and did constitute them the visible Church of God (though not comprehensive of all the faithful in the world)—yet the sign of this covenant was not affixed to all the persons that were within this covenant, nor to any of them till the prefixed season, nor to other faithful servants of God that were not of descent from Abraham. And consequently, that it depends purely upon the will of the Lawgiver to determine what shall be the sign of His covenant: unto whom, at what season, and upon what terms it shall be affixed.

If our brethren do suppose baptism to be the seal of the covenant which God makes with every believer (of which the Scriptures are altogether silent), it is not our concern to contend with them herein. Yet, we conceive the seal of that covenant is the indwelling of the Spirit of Christ in the particular and individual persons in whom He resides, and nothing else. Neither do they or we suppose that baptism is in any such manner substituted in the place of circumcision, as to have the same (and no other) latitude, extent, or terms than circumcision had, for that was suited only for the male children; baptism is an ordinance suited for every believer, whether male or female. That extended to all the males that were born in Abraham's house, or bought with his money, equally with the males that proceeded from his own loins; but baptism is not so far extended in any true Christian church that we know of, as to be administered to all the poor infidel⁴⁷ servants that the members thereof purchase for their service and introduce into their families, nor to the children born of them in their house.

But we conceive the same parity⁴⁸ of reasoning may hold for the ordinance of baptism as for that of circumcision (Exo 12:49); viz., one law for the stranger as for the home born. If any desire to be admitted to all the ordinances and privileges of God's house, the door is open. Upon the same terms that any one person was ever admitted to all or any of those privileges that belong to the Christian Church, may all persons of right challenge the like admission.

As for that text of Scripture, "And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised" (Rom 4:11), we conceive if the apostle's scope in that place be duly attended to, it will appear that no argument can be taken from thence to enforce infant baptism. Forasmuch as we find a full and fair account of those words given by the learned Dr. Lightfoot⁴⁹ (a man not to be suspected of

⁴⁷ **infidel** – unbelieving; adhering to another religion.

⁴⁸ **parity** – equality.

⁴⁹ **John Lightfoot** (1602-1675) – English churchman, rabbinical scholar, Master of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, minister of St. Bartholomew's Church, London, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of

partiality in this controversy) in his *Hor. Hebrai*,⁵⁰ on 1 Corinthians 7:19 (p. 42-43), we shall transcribe his words at large, without any comment of our own upon them:

Circumcision is nothing, if we respect the time, for now it was without use, that end of it being especially fulfilled for which it had been instituted. This end the apostle declares in these words: "And he received the sign of circumcision, a *seal* [σφραγίδα] of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised" (Rom 4:11), etc. But I fear that by most translations they are not sufficiently suited to the end of circumcision and the scope of the apostle, whilst something of their own is by them inserted.

And after the doctor hath represented diverse versions of the words agreeing for the most part in sense with that which we have in our Bibles, he thus proceeds:

Other versions are to the same purpose; as if circumcision was given to Abraham for a seal of that righteousness which he had being yet uncircumcised, which we will not deny to be in some sense true, but we believe that circumcision had chiefly a far different respect.

Give me leave thus to render the words:⁵¹ "And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of faith, which was to be in the uncircumcision"—"which *was to be*," I say, not "which *had been*"—not that which Abraham had whilst he was yet uncircumcised, but that which his uncircumcised seed should have; that is, the Gentiles, who in time to come should imitate the faith of Abraham.

Now consider well on what occasion circumcision was instituted unto Abraham, setting before thine eyes the history thereof in Genesis 17.

This promise is first made unto him: "Thou shalt be the father of many nations" (17:4)—in what sense the apostle explaineth in that chapter—and then there is subjoined a double seal for the confirmation of the thing—to wit, the change of the name Abram into Abraham, and the institution of circumcision. "Behold, as for me, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be the father of many nations" (v. 4). Wherefore was his name called Abraham? For the sealing of this promise: "Thou shalt be the father of many nations." And wherefore was circumcision instituted to him? For the sealing of the same promise: "Thou shalt be the father of many nations." So that this is the sense of the apostle, most agreeable to the institution of circumcision: he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of faith which in time to come the uncircumcision (or the Gentiles) should have and obtain.

Cambridge. He was one of the Westminster Assembly divines. His best known works are a commentary on the proceedings of the Westminster Assembly and *A Few and New Observations upon the Book of Genesis*.

⁵⁰ *Horae Hebraicae et Talmudicae*, a commentary on Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and 1 Corinthians.

⁵¹ Here and following, Dr. Lightfoot gives his own translation from the Greek original.

Abraham had a twofold seed: natural, of the Jews; and faithful, of the believing Gentiles. His natural seed was signed with the sign of circumcision, first indeed for the distinguishing of them from all other nations whilst they as yet were not the seed of Abraham, but especially for the memorial of the justification of the Gentiles by faith, when at length they should become his seed. Therefore, circumcision was of right to cease when the Gentiles were brought in to the faith, forasmuch as then it had obtained its last and chief end, and thenceforth circumcision is nothing.

Thus far he, which we earnestly desire may be seriously weighed; for we plead not his authority, but the evidence of truth in his words.

3. Holiness

Of whatsoever nature the holiness of the children mentioned be (1Co 7:12), yet they who do conclude that all such children (whether infants or of riper years) have from hence an immediate right to baptism, do as we conceive put more into the conclusion than will be found in the premises.

For although we do not determine positively concerning the apostle's scope in the holiness here mentioned, so as to say it is this or that and no other thing; yet it is evident that the apostle does by it determine not only the lawfulness, but the expedience also, of a believer's cohabitation with an unbeliever in the state of marriage.

And we do think that—although the apostle's asserting of the unbelieving yokefellow to be sanctified by the believer should carry in it somewhat more than is in the bare marriage of two infidels, because although the marriage covenant has a divine sanction so as to make the wedlock of two unbelievers a lawful action, and their conjunction and cohabitation in that respect undefiled, yet there might be no ground to suppose from thence that both or either of their persons are thereby sanctified; and the apostle urges the cohabitation of a believer with an infidel in the state of wedlock from this ground: that the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the believing wife—nevertheless, here you have the influence of a believer's faith ascending from an inferior to a superior relation; from the wife to the husband who is her head, before it can descend to their offspring. And therefore we say, whatever be the nature or extent of the holiness here intended, we conceive it cannot convey to the children an immediate right to baptism, because it would then be of another nature, and of a larger extent, than the root and original from whence it is derived—for it is clear by the apostle's argument that holiness cannot be derived to the child from the sanctity of one parent only. If either father or mother be (in the sense intended by the apostle) unholy or unclean, so will the child be also. Therefore, for the production of an holy seed it is necessary that both the parents be sanctified; and this the apostle positively asserts, in the first place, to be done by the believing parent, although the other be an unbeliever—and then, consequentially from thence, argues the holiness of their children. Hence it follows that, as the children have no other holiness than what

they derive from both their parents, so neither can they have any right by this holiness to any spiritual privilege but such as both their parents did also partake of: and therefore, if the unbelieving parent (though sanctified by the believing parent) have not thereby a right to baptism, neither can we conceive that there is any such privilege derived to the children by their birth holiness.

Besides, if it had been the usual practice in the apostles' days for the father or mother that did believe to bring all their children with them to be baptised, then the holiness of the believing Corinthians' children would not at all have been in question when this epistle was written; but might have been argued from their passing under that ordinance which represented their new birth, although they had derived no holiness from their parents by their first birth; and would have laid as an exception against the apostle's inference, "else were your children unclean," etc. But of the sanctification of all the children of every believer by this ordinance, or any other way than what is before mentioned, the Scripture is altogether silent.

This may also be added: that if this birth holiness do qualify all the children of every believer for the ordinance of baptism, why not for all other ordinances—for the Lord's Supper as was practiced for a long time together? For if recourse be had to what the Scriptures speak generally of this subject, it will be found that the same qualities which do entitle any person to baptism, do so also for the participation of all the ordinances and privileges of the house of God that are common to all believers.

Whosoever can and does interrogate his good conscience towards God when he is baptised (as everyone must do that makes it to himself a sign of salvation), is capable of doing the same thing in every other act of worship that he performs.

4. *Whole Families*

The arguments and inferences that are usually brought for or against infant baptism from those few instances which the Scriptures afford us of whole families being baptised, are only conjectural, and therefore cannot of themselves be conclusive on either hand. Yet, in regard, most that treat on this subject for infant baptism do (as they conceive) improve these instances to the advantage of their argument; [therefore,] we think it meet⁵² (in like manner as in the cases before mentioned, so in this) to show the invalidity of such inferences.

Cornelius worshipped God with all his house (Act 10:44); the jailor and Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed God with each of their houses (Act 16:34; 18:8). The household of Stephanus addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints (1Co 1:16;

⁵² **meet** – fitting; appropriate.

16:15)—so that, thus far, worshipping and believing run parallel with baptism. And, if Lydia had been a married person when she believed, it is probable her husband would also have been named by the apostle, as in like cases, inasmuch as he would have been not only a part, but the head of that baptised household (Act 16:14-15).

Who can assign any probable reason why the apostle should make mention of four or five households being baptized, and no more? Or why he does so often vary in the method of his salutations (Rom 1:6), sometimes mentioning only particular persons of great note, other times such and the church in their house, [or] the saints that were with them; and them belonging to Narcissus who were in the Lord (Rom 16:11); thus saluting either whole families, or part of families, or only particular persons in families considered as they were in the Lord? For if it had been an usual practice to baptize all children with their parents, there were then many thousands of the Jews which believed, and a great number of the Gentiles, in most of the principle cities in the world. And among so many thousands, it is more than probable there would have been some thousands of households baptised; why then should the apostle in this respect signalize one family of the Jews, and three or four of the Gentiles, as particular instances in a case that was common?

Whoever supposes that we do willfully debar our children from the benefit of any promise or privilege that of right belongs to the children of believing parents, they do entertain over-severe thoughts of us: to be without natural affections is one of the characters of the worst of persons in the worst of times. We do freely confess ourselves guilty before the Lord, in that we have not with more circumspection and diligence trained up those that relate to us in the fear of the Lord; and do humbly and earnestly pray that our omissions herein may be remitted, and that they may not redound to the prejudice of ourselves or any of ours. But with respect to that duty that is incumbent on us, we acknowledge ourselves obliged by the precepts of God to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, to teach them His fear, both by instruction and example. And should we set light by this precept, it would demonstrate that we are more vile than the unnatural heathen that like not to retain God in their knowledge—our baptism might then be justly accounted as no baptism to us.

There are many special promises that do encourage us, as well as precepts that do oblige us, to the close pursuit of our duty herein: that God, Whom we serve, being jealous of His worship, threatens the visiting of the father's transgression upon the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate Him (Exo 20:5); yet does more abundantly extend His mercy even to thousands (respecting the offspring and succeeding generations) of them that love Him and keep His commands.

When our Lord rebuked His disciples for prohibiting the access of little children that were brought to Him—that He might pray over them, lay His hands upon them, and

bless them—[He] does declare that of such is the kingdom of God (Mar 10:14). And the Apostle Peter, in answer to their inquiry that desired to know what they must do to be saved, does not only instruct them in the necessary duty of repentance and baptism; but does also thereto encourage them by that promise which had reference both to them and their children (Act 2:38-39). If our Lord Jesus, in the aforementioned place, does not respect the qualities of children (as elsewhere) as to their meekness, humility, and sincerity, and the like, but intends also that those very persons and such like appertain to the kingdom of God; and if the apostle Peter, in mentioning the aforesaid promise, does respect not only the present and succeeding generations of those Jews that heard him (in which sense the same phrase doth occur in Scripture), but also the immediate off-spring of his auditors,⁵³ whether the promise relates to the gift of the Holy Spirit, or of eternal life, or any grace or privilege tending to the obtaining thereof—it is neither our concern nor our interest to confine the mercies and promises of God to a more narrow or less compass than He is pleased graciously to offer and intend them; nor to have a light esteem of them; but are obliged in duty to God, and affection to our children, to plead earnestly with God and use our utmost endeavours, that both ourselves and our offspring may be partakers of His mercies and gracious promises. Yet we cannot from either of these texts collect a sufficient warrant for us to baptize our children before they are instructed in the principles of the Christian religion.

For as to the instance in little children, it seems, by the disciples forbidding them, that they were brought upon some other account, not so frequent as baptism must be supposed to have been, if from the beginning believers' children had been admitted thereto; and no account is given whether their parents were baptised believers or not. And as to the instance of the apostle, if the following words and practice may be taken as an interpretation of the scope of that promise, we cannot conceive it does refer to infant baptism, because the text does presently subjoin: "Then they that gladly *received* the word were baptized" (Act 2:41).

That there were some believing children of believing parents in the apostles' days is evident from the Scriptures, even such as were then in their fathers' family, and under their parents' tuition and education—to whom the apostle, in several of his epistles to the churches, giveth commands to obey their parents in the Lord, and does allure their tender years to hearken to this precept, by reminding them that it is the first command with promise (Eph 6:2).

⁵³ **auditors** – hearers.

And it is recorded by him for the praise of Timothy, and encouragement of parents betimes⁵⁴ to instruct, and children early to attend to godly instruction, that from a child he had known the holy Scriptures (2Ti 3:15).

The apostle John rejoiced greatly when he found the children of the elect lady walking in the truth; and the children of her elect sister join with the apostle in his salutation (2Jo 1:1-4).

But...this was not generally so, that all the children of believers were accounted for believers (as they would have been if they had been all baptised). [This] may be collected from the character which the apostle gives of persons fit to be chosen to eldership in the church, which was not common to all believers: among others this is expressly one, viz., if there be any “having faithful [or believing] children not accused of riot or unruly” (Ti 1:6). And we may from the apostle’s writings on the same subject collect the reason of this qualification, viz., that in case the person designed for this office, to teach and rule in the house of God, had children capable of it, there might be first a proof of his ability, industry, and success in this work in his own family and private capacity, before he was ordained to the exercise of this authority in the church, in a public capacity as a bishop in the house of God.

5. *Unity of Spirit*

These things we have mentioned as having a direct reference unto the controversy between our brethren and us. Other things that are more abstruse and prolix,⁵⁹ which are frequently introduced into this controversy but do not necessarily concern it, we have purposely avoided, [so] that the distance between us and our brethren may not be by us made more wide—for it is our duty and concern, so far as is possible for us (retaining a good conscience towards God), to seek a more entire agreement and reconciliation with them.

We are not insensible that, as to the order of God’s house and entire communion therein, there are some things wherein we (as well as others) are not at a full accord among ourselves; as for instance the known principle, and state of the consciences of diverse of us that have agreed in this confession is such, that we cannot hold church communion with any other than baptized believers and churches constituted of such; yet some others of us have a greater liberty and freedom in our spirits that way. And therefore we have purposely omitted the mention of things of that nature, that we might concur in giving this evidence of our agreement, both among ourselves and with other good Christians, in those important articles of the Christian religion mainly insisted on

⁵⁴ **betimes** – early; before it is too late. ⁵⁹

prolix – verbose; tiresomely wordy.

by us. And this notwithstanding, we all esteem it our chief concern—both among ourselves and all others that in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours, and love Him in sincerity—to endeavour “to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph 4:3); and in order thereunto, to exercise “all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love” (Eph 4:2).

And we are persuaded, if the same method were introduced into frequent practice between us and our Christian friends who agree with us in all the fundamental articles of the Christian faith (though they do not so in the subject and administration of baptism), it would soon beget a better understanding and brotherly affection between us.

6. *Conclusion*

In the beginning of the Christian Church, when the doctrine of the baptism of Christ was not universally understood, yet those that knew only the baptism of John were the disciples of the Lord Jesus, and Apollos, an eminent minister of the gospel of Jesus (Act 18:24-19:5).

In the beginning of the reformation of the Christian Church—and recovery from that Egyptian darkness wherein our forefathers for many generations were held in bondage—upon recourse had to the Scriptures of truth, different apprehensions were conceived, which are to this time continued, concerning the practice of this ordinance.

Let not our zeal herein be misinterpreted: that God Whom we serve is jealous of His worship (Exo 34:14). By His gracious providence, the law thereof is continued amongst us. And we are forewarned by what happened in the Church of the Jews, that it is necessary for every generation, and that frequently in every generation, to consult the divine oracle, compare our worship with the rule, and take heed to what doctrines we receive and practice.

If the ten commands exhibited in the popish idolatrous service books⁵⁵ had been received as the entire law of God because they agree in number with His Ten Commands, and also in the substance of nine of them, the second Commandment forbidding idolatry had been utterly lost.

If Ezra and Nehemiah had not made a diligent search into the particular parts of God’s Law and His worship, the Feast of Tabernacles (which for many centuries of years had not been duly observed according to the institution, though it was retained in the general notion) would not have been kept in due order (Ezr 3:4).

So may it be now as to many things relating to the service of God, which do retain the names proper to them in their first institution, but yet, through inadvertency (where there

⁵⁵ The traditional Roman Catholic version of the Ten Commandments combines the second and third commandments and splits the tenth into two.

is no sinister design), may vary in their circumstances from their first institution. And if by means of any ancient defection—or of that general corruption of the service of God, and interruption of His true worship, and persecution of His servants by the antichristian bishop of Rome for many generations—those who do consult the Word of God cannot yet arrive at a full and mutual satisfaction among themselves [regarding] what was the practice of the primitive Christian Church in some points relating to the worship of God. Yet inasmuch as these things are not of the essence of Christianity, but that we agree in the fundamental doctrines thereof, we do apprehend there is sufficient ground to lay aside all bitterness and prejudice, and in the spirit of love and meekness to embrace and own each other therein; leaving each other at liberty to perform such other services (wherein we cannot concur) apart unto God, according to the best of our understanding.



Appendix 2

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

*“Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which
was once delivered unto the saints.”*

—Jude 1:3

In England during the 1630s and 1640s, Congregationalists and Baptists emerged from the Church of England. Their early existence was marked by repeated cycles of persecution at the hands of Parliament and of the established religion of the crown. The infamous Clarendon Code was adopted in the 1660s to crush all dissent from the official religion of the state. Periods of rigorous application and intervals of relaxation of these coercive laws haunted Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Baptists alike.

Presbyterians and Congregationalists suffered no less than did Baptists under this harassment. Their united front of doctrinal agreement was a main reason for their relative success in resisting government tyranny. All Presbyterians stood by the *Westminster Confession* of 1647. Congregationalists adopted virtually the same articles of faith in the *Savoy Declaration* of 1658.

The Westminster Confession (1647)

While the Civil War raged in England between the Puritan Parliament and the king (1642-1649), changes were made in the Anglican Church. In 1643, the Episcopal form of government, with its hierarchical parishes and bishops, was abolished by Parliament. A new structure was requested. It would be formulated by an assembly of one hundred twenty-one clergymen (the “divines”)⁵⁶ and thirty laymen: ten members of the House of Lords and twenty members of the House of Commons. This “Westminster Assembly of Divines” met at the historic Westminster Abbey (which adjoins the Houses of Parliament) in London, from which the confession derives its name.

⁵⁶ **divines** – theologically learned men.

Most of those who were present when the Assembly convened in 1643 were Presbyterian Puritans. Eight Scottish commissioners were allowed to be part of the gathering, in appreciation for their aid in fighting the king. While the Scottish representatives had no official role in the proceedings, their presence remained influential. The Assembly held 1,163 sessions between July 1, 1643, and February 22, 1649.

As work proceeded, a Directory of Worship was prepared to replace the Episcopal prayer book. In addition, a new confession of faith was drafted for the Church of England. This *Westminster Confession* has become the most important of the great Protestant creeds of the Reformation era. Work on the confession began in July, 1645, and continued with many interruptions until its completion in December, 1646. The confession was presented to both Houses of Parliament in 1647 under the title: "The Humble Advice of the Assembly of Divines, Quotations and Texts of Scripture Annexed, Presented by Them Lately to Both Houses of Parliament."

The *Westminster Confession* is a summary of major Christian beliefs in thirty-three chapters. Classic Reformed biblical theology permeates the confession, with emphasis on the covenant relationships between God and man. In the matter of church government, it presents the Presbyterian view, with presbyteries (or synods) which oversee local congregations. In the matter of baptism, it holds infant baptism, consistent with the covenant approach to Christian heritage. This believes that God often saves whole households, and that an infant is considered a part of the covenant through his godly parents until he proves otherwise by his lifestyle choices.

To help explain the confession, a *Larger Catechism* was prepared by the Westminster Assembly, to be used by ministers in the pulpit for public teaching. A *Shorter Catechism* was published for instructing children at home.

Though the *Westminster Confession* was used only briefly by the Church of England, it was adopted for common use in 1647 by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Today, the Westminster Confession remains the authoritative statement of faith in most Presbyterian churches.

The Savoy Declaration (1658)

Many conservative evangelical Christians found the *Westminster Confession* to be an accurate statement of faith according to the Scriptures, but some differed in the matters of church government and baptism. These fell into two groups: the Congregationalists and the Baptists.

To maintain the growth they enjoyed, an assembly of Congregationalist leaders met in the Savoy Palace in London on September 29, 1658. The Synod adopted a "Declaration of Faith and Order, Honored and Practiced in the Congregational Churches." Based largely on the *Westminster Confession*, the *Savoy Declaration* included a section on "The

Institution of Churches and the Order Appointed in Them by Jesus Christ.” The Congregational form of church government was advocated.

The London Baptist Confession of 1677

Those who understood the Scriptures to teach believer’s baptism also needed a clear statement of faith. These were known as “Baptists.” Feeling their substantial unity with the suffering of the Presbyterians and the Congregationalists under the same cruel injustice, Baptists met to publish their substantial harmony with them in doctrine.

A circular letter was sent to Particular Baptist churches in England and Wales, asking each assembly to send representatives to a meeting in London in 1677. A confession consciously modeled after the *Westminster Confession* was approved. It has ever since borne the name of *The London Confession of 1677*. Because this document was drawn up in dark hours of oppression, it was issued anonymously.

The preface to the original document of 1677 says in part:

It is now many years⁵⁷ since diverse of us...did conceive ourselves under a necessity of publishing a confession of our faith, for the information and satisfaction of those that did not thoroughly understand what our principles were, or had entertained prejudices against our profession...

Forasmuch as this confession is not now commonly to be had; and also that many others have since embraced the same truth which is owned therein; it was judged necessary by us to join together in giving a testimony to the world of our firm adhering to those wholesome principles...

We did conclude it necessary to confess ourselves the more fully and distinctly...and finding no defect in this regard in that fixed on by the [Westminster] Assembly, and after them by those of the Congregational way, we did conclude it best to retain the same order in our present confession...for the most part without any variation of the terms...making use of the very same words with them both...This we did to...convince all that we have no itch to clog religion with new words, but to readily acquiesce in that form of sound words which hath been used by others before us...In those things wherein we differ from others, we have expressed ourselves with all candor and plainness...Contention is most remote from our design in all that we have done in this matter.

⁵⁷ It had been 33 years since a former *London Confession* had been issued (in 1644) by seven Baptist congregations in London. That document had been drawn up to distinguish the Baptist churches, who followed the historic evangelical faith of the Reformation, from the Anabaptists and the newly forming Arminian Baptists.

The London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689

William and Mary assumed the English throne in 1689. On May 24 of that very year the *Act of Toleration* was enacted. Within two months, several London pastors called for a general meeting of Baptists from England and Wales. Representatives of one hundred and seven congregations met in London from September third to the twelfth. They adopted the *London Confession of 1677* with some important corrections.

One of the reasons for the growth of Baptist congregations was the movement's distinctives. The Baptists did not recognize sacraments per se, as did the Anglicans and the Roman Catholics. They believed in two ordinances: the Lord's Supper and baptism of professing believers. Early Baptists preferred to be baptized by immersion in "living waters," water flowing in a river or stream. In the Baptist church government, the congregation had authority under Christ's headship. It had autonomy with respect to men: it could call a pastor and dismiss him. There were no bishops or superintendents in the Baptist structure; no group had any governmental power over other individual congregations.

In summary, the understandings of the evangelical Christian faith as proclaimed in the Scriptures were set forth in the *Westminster Confession* in 1647. Updates were made 1) for congregational church government in the *Savoy Declaration* in 1658, and 2) for believer's baptism in the *London Confession of 1677*.

The main body of the Westminster Confession was again preserved in the *London Confession of Faith of 1689*, which incorporated the minor revisions of both the *Savoy Declaration* and the first *London Confession*. This *London Baptist Confession of 1689* has stood the test of time and become one of the most important statements of evangelical faith in the history of the Church. It is used this day by thousands of congregations around the world.



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