

Christ Presbyterian Church

Officer's Training

Lesson #2

AN OUTLINE OF THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

Lesson #2

Chapter II: Of God, And Of The Holy Trinity

II: i

There is but one living and true God (*Deuteronomy 6:4; I Thessalonians 1:9*):

- A. He is a Spirit, invisible, without a body (*John 4:24*)
- B. The Character or Attributes of God:
 1. Incommunicable (Belonging to God alone)
 - a. Unchanging (*Malachi 3:6*)
 - b. Immense (*Jeremiah 23:24*)
 - c. Eternal (*I Timothy 1:17*)
 - d. Incomprehensible (*Romans 11:33; Job 11:7*)
 - e. Almighty (*Revelation 1:8*)
 2. Communicable (Communicated to Man)
 - a. Most wise (*Romans 16:27*)
 - b. Most Holy (*Isaiah 6:3*)
 - c. Most free (*Psalms 115:3*)
 - d. Absolute (*Isaiah 44:6; Ephesians 1:11*)
 - e. Most loving (*I John 4:8-10*) and gracious (*Exodus 34:6,7*)
 - f. Most just in hating sin and judging the guilty (*Nehemiah 9:32, 33; Habakkuk 1:13; Exodus 34:7; II Thessalonians 1:7-9*)

II: ii

God is the Great Original (He is self-sufficient):

- A. God is not dependent on anything.
 1. "Not standing in need of any creatures," (*Acts 17:24, 25*)
 2. "Nothing is to Him contingent or uncertain," (*Isaiah 46:9-11*)
- B. All things are dependent upon God.
 1. "He is the alone fountain of all being," (*Romans 11:36*)
 2. He "hath most sovereign dominion," (*Daniel 4:34, 35*)
- C. Therefore, to God is due all worship and obedience. (*Revelation 7:11, 12*)

II: iii

The Holy Trinity (*Matthew 28:19; 3:16, 17; II Corinthians 13:14*)

- A. The one God exists in three persons.
 1. "God the Father"
 2. "God the Son"
 3. "God the Holy Spirit"
- B. Each person is completely God.
 1. "Of one substance"
 2. "Equal in power and glory"
- C. These three equal persons have personal distinctions:
 1. Father - "not begotten or proceeding"
 2. Son - "eternally begotten of the Father" (*John 1:14-18*)
 3. Holy Spirit - "eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son" (*Galatians 4:6; John 15:26*)

Lesson #2

Chapter III: Of God's Eternal Decree

III: I, ii

Definition of God's Decree:

- A. What it IS. (*Ephesians 1:11; Acts 4:27, 28; Isaiah 46:9-11*)
 - 1. God has a Predetermined Plan. (*Acts 15:18*)
 - 2. This plan is eternal and unchangeable. (*Ephesians 1:4; Hebrews 6:17; Ephesians 3:11*)
 - 3. This plan is for everything that takes place. (*Matthew 10:29, 30*)
 - 4. Yet, God is not the author of sin. (*James 1:13*)
 - 5. God does not force men to do what they do not want to do. (*Acts 2:23; 4:27, 28; John 19:11*)
- B. What God's Decree is NOT.
God has not planned things because He foresaw that it would be that way in the future. (God is not dependent on what He created.) (*Romans 9:11, 13, 16, 18; Ephesians 1:4,5*)

III: iii, iv, v

The Decree of Predestination and Fore-ordination:

- A. Definition of these terms.
 - 1. Decree: *purpose or plan.*
 - 2. Predestination: *Pre = before; destination = the end or destiny. The end set beforehand.*
 - 3. Fore-ordination: *arrange or plan beforehand.*
 - 4. Election: *choosing or selecting by God for salvation.*
 - 5. Reprobation: *God's passing by of some and condemning them.*
- B. Predestination unto everlasting life. (*Romans 9:11-22; John 6:37; 10:26-30*)
 - 1. Specific
 - 2. Unchangeable
 - 3. Eternal (*Ephesians 1:4*)
 - 4. The reason why is with God. (*Ephesians 1:11; Deuteronomy 29:29*)
 - 5. Chosen in Christ out of grace and love. (*II Timothy 1:9*)
 - 6. Not because of foresight of faith or good works. (*Acts 13:48*)
 - 7. For God's own glory. (*Ephesians 1:5-12*)
- C. Fore-ordination unto everlasting death. (*Romans 9:11-22; Jude 4*)
 - 1. Specific
 - 2. Unchangeable

III: vi

The Way the Elect are Saved:

- A. Fallen in Adam.
- B. Redeemed by Christ. (*Romans 5:19; I Corinthians 15:22*)
- C. Effectually called to faith by Spirit. (*II Thessalonians 2:13,14*)
- D. Justified, Adopted, Sanctified and Kept. (*Romans 8:19; Ephesians 1:5*)
- E. Points B, C, and D are true only for the elect.

An Outline of the Westminster Confession of Faith

Lesson #2, Chapter III, continued:

III: vii

The Way God Deals with Others:

- A. Passes them by, withholding mercy. (*Matthew 11:25, 26; Romans 9:19-22*)
- B. Ordains them to dishonor and wrath. (*I Peter 2:8; II Thessalonians 2:10-12*)
- C. The cause of this is for their sin.
- D. This action is just. (*Revelation 15:3,4*)

III: viii

How to Treat This Doctrine:

- A. Handled with care with believers.
- B. This doctrine has much value.
 - 1. Praise for God.
 - 2. Humility for man.
 - 3. Consolation to believers.

ASSIGNMENT:

1. The Westminster Confession of Faith,

Read: Chapter II, “Of God, And Of The Holy Trinity”, Chapter III, “Of God’s Eternal Decree”

Read: G. I. Williamson, pages 23-40.

2. The Book of Church Order of the P.C.A.

Read: the Preface I, II, III; Chapters 1, 2, 3.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Is there more than one God? (WCF, II/I) Yes No

2. What do we mean when we call God a “Spirit”? (GIW, pg 24)

(1) _____

(2) _____

3. What is meant by these terms: (GIW, pg 25)

(1)“Attributes” _____

(2)“Incommunicable” _____

(3)“Communicable” _____

4. What are some incommunicable attributes of God? (GIW, pg 24)

5. What are some communicable attributes of God? (GIW, pg 25)

6. In how many persons does the one God exist? (WCF, II & III)

What are they?

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

Lesson #2, Questions continued:

7. Did God from all eternity ordain whatsoever comes to pass? (WCF, III/I) Yes No

8. Does God do this in such a way as to be the author of sin, or to do violence to the will of the creatures, or to take away second causes? (WCF, III/I)
 Yes No

9. Has God decreed whatsoever comes to pass because He foresaw it as future? (WCF, III/II)
 Yes No

10. Are some men and angels predestinated into everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death by the decree of God? (WCF, III/III)
 Yes No

Why? (WCF,III/III) _____

11. Are there any conditions or causes in God's creatures that move Him to choose some unto everlasting glory in Christ? (WCF, III/V)
 Yes No

12. Is it true that no one is redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved except the elect only? (WCF, III/VI)
 Yes No

13. Is there a condition or cause in God's creatures that moves Him to ordain the rest of mankind to dishonor and wrath? If so, what is that condition or cause? (WCF, III/VII)
 Yes No

14. Who is the only King and Head of the Church? (Book of Church Order of the PCA, Preface, I)
_____ Does this mean that the church is not a
democracy? Yes No

15. How does Christ rule and teach the Church through His Word and Spirit? (BCO, Preface, I)

16. Define the constitution: (BCO, Preface, III) _____

Lesson #2, Questions continued:

17. Is the church one and the same in all ages? (BCO, 1-2, 2-1)

Yes No

18. Is ecclesiastical jurisdiction a joint power exercised by presbyters in courts? (BCO, 1-5)

Yes No

19. Is the visible unity of the church destroyed by different denominations? (BCO, 2-2)

Yes No

20. Is ecclesiastical power wholly spiritual? (BCO, 3-2, 3-4)

Yes No

21. When do church officers exercise power severally (separately) and when jointly? (BCO, 3-2)

(1) _____

(2) _____

22. For what purposes has Christ ordained the church visible? (BCO, 3-5)

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____