

**Christ Presbyterian Church**

**Officer's Training**

Lesson #8

# AN OUTLINE OF THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH

## Lesson #8

### Chapter XVI: Of Good Works

XVI: i, ii

#### The Nature and Value of Good Works

- A. Only what God commands is a good work. (*Deuteronomy 12:32; Matthew 28:20; 15:9*)
- B. Good works are fruit and evidence of true faith. (*James 2:18-20*)
- C. The value of good works.
  - 1. They express gratitude. (*Psalms 116:12, 13*)
  - 2. They give assurance of salvation. (*I John 2:3-5; II Peter 1:10*)
  - 3. They edify believers. (*II Corinthians 9:2; I Timothy 4:12*)
  - 4. They make the gospel attractive. (*Titus 2:5, 7, 10*)
  - 5. They silence the critics. (*I Peter 2:15*)
  - 6. They glorify God. (*I Peter 2:12*)
- D. Good in believers is the work of God. (*Ephesians 2:10*)

XVI: iii, iv, v, vi

#### Responsibility and Good Works

- A. Ability to do good comes only from the Spirit of Christ. (*John 15:5; Philippians 2:13; 4:13; II Corinthians 3:5*)
- B. Believers are to stir up the grace of God. (*Philippians 12:12; II Timothy 1:6*)
- C. Believers never are good enough, for even their good works are impure. (*Romans 3:20; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Isaiah 64:6; Romans 7:15, 18*)
- D. Believers and their good works are accepted through Christ. (*I Peter 2:5; Hebrews 13:20, 21*)
- E. The good works of unbelievers are not acceptable to God. (*Titus 1:15; Romans 14:23; Amos 5:21, 22; Titus 3:5*)

## Lesson #8

### Chapter XVII: Of the Perseverance of the Saints

XVII: i, ii, iii

The preservation of believers.

- A. The saved cannot be lost, but will continue in grace. (*Philippians 1:6; John 10:28, 29*)
- B. They persevere because of God. He preserves them.
  - 1. The love of the Father in election. (*II Timothy 2:19; Jeremiah 31:3*)
  - 2. The prayers of Christ. (*Hebrews 10:14; Hebrews 7:25*)
  - 3. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (*John 14:16, 17*)
  - 4. The Covenant of grace. (*Jeremiah 32:40; Hebrews 8:10-12*)
- C. Believers may fall into sin for a time.
  - 1. There are several reasons why they might fall.
  - 2. The effects of falling are serious.

## Lesson #8

### Chapter XVIII: Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation

XVIII: i, ii, iii, iv

#### Certainty of Salvation

- A. There is a false hope.  
(*John 8:41; Matthew 7:22, 23*)
- B. There is true assurance that believers may enjoy.  
(*II Timothy 1:12; I John 5:13*)
- C. This certainty rests on:
  - 1. The truth of God's promises.  
(*Hebrews 6:11, 12, 17, 18*)
  - 2. The graces in a believer's heart.  
(*II Peter 1:10, 11*)
  - 3. The testimony of the Holy Spirit.  
(*Romans 8:15, 16; Ephesians 1:13, 14*)
- D. A true believer may lack or even lose his assurance of salvation.  
(*Psalms 51:8, 12, 14; Ephesians 4:30*)
- E. A believer should seek and find assurance.  
(*John 5:13; I Corinthians 2:12; II Peter 1:4, 5*)

## Lesson #8

### ASSIGNMENT:

1. The Westminster Confession of Faith,  
Read: Chapters XVI, XVII, and XVIII  
Read: G. I. Williamson, pages 117-136
2. The Book of Church Order of the P.C.A.,  
Read: Chapters 27, 28, 29, 30

### ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What only are good works? (WCF, XVI/I) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Are those works good which men devise but which God has not commanded in His holy word?  
(WCF, XVI/I)      Yes      No
3. What is the commonly accepted but false notion of “good works”? (GIW, pg 117) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Good works do not save us, but those who are saved do good works. What purpose do good works serve in the life of believers? (WCF, XVI/II)  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_                      (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_                      (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
(5) \_\_\_\_\_                      (6) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do believers have the ability to do good works of themselves? Explain. (WCF, XVI/III)  
 Yes      No     \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Are the believers to wait until the Spirit “moves” them before doing the works which God has commanded them to do? Explain. (WCF, XVI/III)      Yes      No     \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Are those who reach the greatest height possible in this life able to do more than God requires?  
(WCF, XVI/IV)      Yes      No

**Lesson #8, Questions continued:**

8. Why can we not by our best works merit pardon of sin or eternal life? (WCF, XVI/X)
- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_
9. If our best works are imperfect and mixed with evil, how can our works be accepted by God? (WCF, XVI/VI) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
10. If an unbeliever does what God has commanded just like a believer, why is it not a good work when the unbeliever does it? (WCF, XVI/VII; GIW, pg 118) (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_
11. Should unbelievers neglect to do good works? (WCF, XVI/VII)       Yes     No
12. Why shall believers never finally fall away, but shall certainly persevere to the end and be eternally saved? (WCF, XVII/II) (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_
13. Is God like a celestial filling station, available but powerless until the sinner makes his move, drives in and says to God, "Fill 'er up"? (GIW, pg 127)       Yes     No
14. May those who persevere to the end, by neglect, fall into grievous sins and displease God and lose their comfort, hurt others, and be judged? (WCF, XVII/III)       Yes     No
15. May the unregenerate deceive themselves with false hopes of being in God's favor? (WCF, XVIII/I)       Yes     No
16. On what is an infallible assurance founded? (WCF, XVIII/II)
- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson #8, Questions continued:**

17. What is the difference between true and false assurance as to the qualities of each? (GIW, pg 132)

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_

18. Is it the strength of one's conviction that he is saved that matters or is it the character of that conviction? (GIW, pg 132) \_\_\_\_\_

19. Is it correct to say that if a man is not absolutely certain he is saved, then he has never savingly believed on Christ? (WCF, XVIII/III)      Yes      No

20. May anything shake a true believer's assurance? If so, what? (WCF, XVIII/IV)  Yes      No

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_     (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_     (4) \_\_\_\_\_

21. What does church discipline maintain when used properly? (BCO, 27-3) (1) \_\_\_\_\_

- (2) \_\_\_\_\_     (3) \_\_\_\_\_

22. Is discipline for building up or for destruction? (BCO, 27-4) \_\_\_\_\_

23. Scripture's law sets forth what disciplinary principles? (BCO, 27-5)

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_     (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_     (4) \_\_\_\_\_

24. What oversight and discipline are "non-communing members" entitled? (BCO, 28-1, 2, 3, 4)

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

25. What is an "offense"? (BCO, 29-1) \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

26. List censures which may be inflicted by church courts: (BCO, 30-1)

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_     (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_     (4) \_\_\_\_\_