

Christ Presbyterian Church

Officer's Training

Lesson #12

AN OUTLINE OF THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH

Lesson #12

Chapter XXX: Of Church Censures

XXX: i, ii

The Authority of Church Censures (*John 18:36; I Timothy 5:17; Matthew 16:19; 18:17-18*)

- A. Christ as Head of Church appointed a government
- B. Church government is distinct from civil government
- C. Church officers have true administrative power
- D. This power is to open or close the Kingdom of God to men
- E. This opening and closing is done by means of the Word and censures

XXX: iii, iv

The Why and What of Censures

- A. Why (*I Timothy 5:20; 1:20; Jude 23*)
 - 1. Reclaiming offending brothers
 - 2. Deterring other brothers
 - 3. Stop the spread of sin
 - 4. Upholding the honor of Christ and the Gospel
 - 5. Preventing the wrath of God from falling on the Church
- B. What
 - 1. Admonition (private then public) (*I Thessalonians 5:12*)
 - 2. Suspension from the sacrament (*II Thessalonians 3:6, 14*)
 - 3. Ex-communication from the church (*Matthew 18:17; I Corinthians 5:4, 5, 13*)

Lesson #12

Chapter XXXI: Of Synods and Councils

XXXI: i, ii

Synods and Their Power (*Acts 15*)

- A. There ought to be assemblies
- B. The local officers are to appoint assemblies
- C. The power of assemblies
 - 1. Solve controversies of faith and conscience
 - 2. Make rules for worship and government
 - 3. Receive complaints
 - 4. These decisions are to be heard and submitted to if agreeable with the Word of God

XXXI: iii, iv

The Limits of Church Councils (*Luke 12:13, 14; John 18:36; Matthew 22:21*)

- A. May err and so are not a rule of faith and practice
- B. To handle only ecclesiastical matters
- C. Not to meddle with civil matters
 - 1. May petition under extraordinary circumstances
 - 2. May give advice if they are asked to by civil government

Lesson #12

Chapter XXXII: Of the State of Man After Death and of the Resurrection of the Dead

XXXII: i

The State of Man After Death

- A. After death the body returns to dust and corruption (*Genesis 3:19*)
- B. After death the soul returns to God (*Philippians 1:23; II Corinthians 5:6-8*)
 - 1. Souls of the righteous are in heaven and wait the redemption of their bodies (*II Corinthians 5:1-8; Romans 8:23*)
 - 2. Souls of the wicked are cast into hell and wait the judgement (*Luke 16:23-24; II Peter 2:9*)
- C. After death there is no soul sleep and no purgatory

XXXII: ii, iii

The Resurrection of the Dead

- A. There will be a resurrection of all bodies at the Last Day (*Acts 24:15*)
- B. Those who are alive on that day will be changed without even dying (*I Thessalonians 4:17; I Corinthians 15:51, 52*)
- C. The same bodies shall be resurrected and forever united to their souls only with different qualities (*I Corinthians 15:42-44*)
- D. The unjust shall be raised to dishonor (*John 5:28, 29*)
- E. The just shall be made like Christ's glorious body (*Philippians 3:21*)

Lesson #12

Chapter XXXIII: Of the Last Judgment

XXXIII: i, ii, iii

The Judgement

- A. God has set a day of judgement for all men
(*Acts 17:31*)
- B. Christ is to be the judge
(*Matthew 25:31-33; John 5:22, 27*)
- C. All men and angels will be judged
(*I Peter 2:4; II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:16*)
- D. God's purpose
 - 1. Show mercy to the elect (*Romans 9:23; Ephesians 2:4-7*)
 - 2. Show justice to the reprobate who is wicked (*Romans 2:5, 6; II Thessalonians 1:7, 8*)
- E. The righteous and the wicked will receive their eternal reward
 - 1. Everlasting life (*Matthew 25:31-34*)
 - 2. Everlasting destruction (*Matthew 25:41-46*)
- F. The Coming Judgement has an effect on men
 - 1. Deter from sin (*II Corinthians 5:11*)
 - 2. Console the godly (*Luke 21:27, 28*)
- G. No one can predict when that Great Day will come
(*Mark 13:35-37; I Peter 3:10*)

Lesson #12

ASSIGNMENT:

1. The Westminster Confession of Faith
Read: Chapters XXX, XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII
Read: G. I. Williamson, pages 231-267
2. The Book of Church Order of the P. C. A.
Read: Chapters 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. How may church officers shut and open the Kingdom of Heaven? (WCF, XXX/II)
(1) Shut _____

(2) Open _____

2. Do church censures prevent the wrath of God which might justly fall on the church if they should allow His covenant, and its seals, to be profaned by notorious and obstinate sinners?
(WCF, XXX/III) Yes No
3. How are the decrees and determinations of Church Synods and councils to be received if in accord with the word of God? (WCF, XXXI/III) _____

4. May Synods and councils err? Yes No
Are they to be made the rule of faith and practice? Yes No
(WCF, XXXI/IV)
5. May Synods and councils of the church handle civil affairs? Yes No (WCF, XXXI/V)
Explain: _____

6. Does the soul die or sleep after the body dies? (WCF, XXXII/I) Yes No
7. The souls of the righteous go to heaven at death and the souls of the wicked go to hell at death but is there any other place for souls that are separated from their bodies? (WCF, XXXII/III)
 Yes No

Lesson #12, Questions continued:

8. What is the end or purpose of God's appointing the day of judgement for both the righteous and the wicked? (WCF, XXXIII/II)

(1) _____

(2) _____

9. Why will God have the exact day of judgement unknown to men? (WCF, XXXIII/III)_____

10. State briefly the views of (1) Pre-millennialists, (2) Post-millennialists, (3) A-millennialists. (GIW, pg 260)

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

11. May baptism be administered privately? (BCO, 56-2) Yes No

12. To what duties is the minister to exhort the parents who bring their children for baptism? (BCO, 56-4) (1) _____

(2) _____ (3) _____

(4) _____ (5) _____

13. If we acknowledge our children's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and renewing grace of the Holy Spirit, then in what condition are our children by nature? (BCO, 56-5)

14. Who is to judge after careful examination the qualifications of those who apply for admission to sealing ordinances? (BCO, 57-2) _____

15. Members received from other churches by letters of dismissal are to give what? (BCO, 57-6)

Lesson #12, Questions continued:

16. What are congregations urged to have during the week previous to the celebration of the Sacrament? (BCO, 58-8) _____

17. What is the proper object of the funeral service? (BCO, 61-2) _____

18. Is it scriptural to observe days of fasting and thanksgiving? (BCO, 62-1) Yes No
19. Is family worship beneficial and to be observed by every family? (BCO, 63-3) Yes No