

ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED!

Eph. 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

It is the greatest truth that the child of God can truly believe! We do not only belong to a family ‘that is out of this world’, but our Father is the God Who is the *ultimate* in Sovereignty and Kingship.

We have brothers and sisters in Him that we have never met, many of them speak a different language, have a different colour of skin, have different customs and ways to us ... but that which unites us is that collectively we have been *made* [accepted in the beloved](#).

There are those, - who follow the doctrine of universalism, - and they teach that we are *all* the family of God, and we are simply those who worship God within the Christian tradition. But the Hindus and the Muslims and all the rest, - even atheists, - will all be saved eventually. In other words, all roads lead to God ... *but they don't!* There is a broad road, - upon which many people travel, - and the Bible says it leads to hell and destruction; it doesn't lead to God, it leads away from God. Christ said emphatically and dogmatically, [Jn. 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.](#)

We are considering the wonderful doctrine upon which grace is founded ... that the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son, came to this world to be the Mediator ... to *mediate* between God and the people He had eternally chosen. This *is* the will of God, and like everything He has planned, ... He will see it fulfilled. When will Christ come back again? ... when all His sheep and all the wheat is gathered in! He has the day fixed, and the moment decided upon ... for He is the Sovereign God Who works all things after the counsel of His own will.

The more I study the *1689 Confession of Faith* the less tolerance I have for anything that contradicts it. It, - in and of itself, - is a compilation of sound doctrine drawn together by faithful men. But the faithfulness of men is not simply the criterion upon which we must place our confidence. The Rock upon which we must place our confidence is none other than the holy, inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of the Almighty God.

The *1689 Confession of Faith* has not the final say ... but the Truth of the Word of God to which it leads us has! Spurgeon wrote, “This ancient

document is the most excellent epitome of the things most surely believed among us. It is not issued as an authoritative rule or code of faith, whereby you may be fettered, but as a means of edification in righteousness. It is an excellent, though not inspired, expression of the teaching of those Holy Scriptures by which all confessions are to be measured. We hold to the humbling truths of God's sovereign grace in the salvation of lost sinners. Salvation is through Christ alone and by faith alone."

Here, as we consider Christ the Mediator it brings to us again a Truth we must never treat lightly or frivolously.

THE PRICE OF REDEMPTION

- * I know we talk about it often ... for it is a subject God desires His people to consider often ... the cost to Heaven to redeem the soul.
- * Do you now take it for granted that the Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth to take upon Himself the punishment that was due to each of us?
 - * To take my punishment would have been enough, - I wouldn't want anyone here to answer for the wrong things I have done.
 - * My sin is my own fault ... and it's my own problem.
- * Some Christians say they didn't enjoy their sin ... I can't understand that, because I did, - much of it, I did.
- * I knew I shouldn't have been doing it and I would have had remorse afterwards, but at the time I enjoyed my sin. I held on to it stubbornly.
- * Yes, I knew better ... I was a Christian, but I was badly backslidden ... and sin, yes, I often enjoyed it.
- * It must have broken the heart of my Saviour to see my indulgence in the practice out of which He had saved me.
- * ... Because you see, He did save me. When He died on the cross of Calvary the payment He made for my sin was so complete that it washed away the sin up until I was saved, and it also washes away the sin I have committed since. He has paid the terrible price for *all* my sin.
 - My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
 - My sin, not in part but the whole,
 - Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
 - Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
- * Christ paid **the price of redemption** to purchase me from all my sin.

THE PURPOSE OF REDEMPTION

* If we were to leave it there and say *that* is **the purpose of redemption** we would be wrong.

* Yes, **the purpose of redemption** is to pay the price of our sin ... but **THE purpose** is even far greater than that. **THE purpose of redemption** is *all* for the glory of the Name of God.

* He is a jealous God. What He does, - even though it benefits others, - is always ultimately for the glory of His Name.

* When He created the world and surveyed its beauty He counted it as “very good”. He was pleased with what He had made. When He created man He was again pleased with what He had made. All that He had made He made so that it would give Him all the glory.

* When Moses and the children of Israel were in the wilderness they saw His glory.

* When the Temple had been built in Jerusalem, [1 Kgs. 8:11](#) the [glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD](#).

* [Ps. 62: 7](#) [In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.](#)

* You see, **the purpose of redemption** is for the Name of God to be glorified.

* It is the consequence of **the purpose of redemption** that our lives have been changed; it is the consequence of **the purpose of redemption** that we have an eternity in Heaven to look forward to ... and it is the consequence of **the purpose of redemption** that [while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us \(Rom. 5:8\)](#).

* ... *But* **the purpose of redemption** is not so that the sinner is to the fore; **the purpose of redemption** is to gain all the glory *for God* through the salvation of those whom He saves.

* Some might say, “You’re splitting theological hairs”. Well, I would say, “If you have a baldy theology it won’t matter to you”. But we are not splitting theological hairs. This is an important matter ... in our salvation *God* gets all the glory.

* It is not the preacher or evangelist, nor the methods the evangelists use, nor the ambiance of the surroundings in the church, ... it is God that saves ... and all the glory in the work of redemption must be laid at His feet, - that is **the purpose of redemption**.

THE PEOPLE OF REDEMPTION

* The doctrines basic to the Bible are fundamental and not up for negotiation. Of course, the doctrine of salvation is one of the most supreme of Biblical doctrines.

* ... Before we go any further, something simple needs to be emphasised ... Jesus never died for sin, Jesus died for sinners.

* Jesus never died for murder ... but He died for murderers.

* Jesus never died for homosexuality ... but He died for homosexuals.

* Jesus never died for alcohol ... but He died for drunkards.

* Jesus never died for sin ... but He died for sinners.

* Sin in all its shapes and forms will one day be destroyed and eradicated totally! ... Sinners ... *Christ died for!*

* Now that *that* is out of the way, something else needs to be cleared up.

* Sometimes some of us are called 'Calvinists' for teaching and believing a particular set of doctrine. However, a Calvinist, - properly understood, - is a definition of Presbyterianism. Calvin preached infant baptism, he taught a different structure of the church to what we believe in, he persecuted, - sometimes even to death, - our forefathers, the Anabaptists. Calvin, - and there are many good things we must say about him, - but Calvin *hated/despised* believers' baptism.

* So I am not a follower of John Calvin ... *I'm a Baptist*; ... do you see what the Baptists believe... as laid out in our *Confession*?! How is it that many Baptists do not subscribe to clear Biblical Baptist teaching?!

* What we are studying together is an old document that is the bedrock of what we ought to believe.

* In the council of Heaven God set out a definite plan to follow and that definite plan included, - to the glory of God, - the Son of God becoming the Mediator between God and man. Take a look at paragraph 6 of our *Confession*, ... "the value, efficacy and benefits of His redemptive work availed for **His elect** in all ages successively from the beginning of the world". ... *Elect* ...

* Is. 45: 4 For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee.

* Rom. 8: 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

* I Peter 1: 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

* It teaches plainly here, - in this chapter of our *Confession*, - for whom Jesus died ... the Elect.

* If Jesus had died for *all* sinners then His work as Mediator has failed because if you say He died for all then His death did not prove powerful enough to save all. ... According to that false doctrine *He has failed!*

* He had to go back to Heaven and He had to admit to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, "I've failed! I haven't done enough to save the world! I haven't done what I was supposed to do. I haven't saved the world!"

* But the Bible doesn't teach Christ came to be the Mediator for all; look again at the *Confession*, "Christ certainly and effectually applies and communicates eternal redemption to all those for whom He has obtained it, His work of intercession is on their behalf. He unites them to Himself by His Spirit; He reveals to them, in and by the Word, the mystery of salvation. He persuades them to believe and obey, governing their hearts by His Word and Spirit; He overcomes all their enemies by His almighty power and wisdom using those methods which are most agreeable to the wonderful and unsearchable appointments of His providence. All these things are carried out in His free and sovereign grace, and unconditionally, nothing of merit being foreseen by Him in the elect."

* This is what Christ did for His people. He is the Mediator of **the people of redemption**. Each and everyone of them He will find and save.

* "It's a cruel doctrine," - you say, - "that Christ will only save some". NO, it's a beautiful doctrine that He saves any ... for none of us deserves to be saved at all!

* What about those of them who never darken a church door? ... Those who are His, He will find them! What about those of them who never pray or never open a Bible? ... He'll find them. *Jn. 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me ... 17:12 those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost.*

* When Christ returned to Glory He was given the highest seat in Heaven. All the population of Glory stood before Him, praising Him, lifting His name above every name.

* The Elect is not some small number that you could fit into the back room of some old church. The number of the Elect, for whom Christ is the Mediator, is *ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands (Rev. 5:11).*

* And look at this also; turn to [Rev. 7: 9](#) After this I beheld, and, lo, a [great multitude, which no man could number](#), of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

* Then look at [v.11](#) And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

* Can you see the difference in the song of the Redeemed and the song of the angels? You find it hinges upon one word, - “salvation”. *Salvation* is on the lips of the Redeemed, - God has *saved* them out of the world!

* Christ saved them, - nothing of themselves, - all of Him.

* “But I had to believe!” Yes, so you had ... but God even gets the glory for that too ... because you were *dead* in sin, - incapable of believing, - ... and He made you alive in Christ so that you could and you would believe. He gave you the breath, as He gave the breath to Adam in the Garden.

CONCLUSION It’s all of God, - from start to finish. If enough of you were to tell me, “David, we don’t agree with you and we want you to stop preaching that sort of doctrine” ... the only way you could stop me is to remove me from the pulpit! (I say that lovingly, kindly and humbly).

* It is what the *Confession* teaches, what the great giants of the Church such as, the Reformers, the Covenanters, Whitefield, William Carey, Hudson Taylor, Spurgeon, Lloyd-Jones and countless more all taught.

* It is the Rock upon which true God-glorifying salvation is built ... and Christ as the Mediator is the non-negotiable link in God’s chain: “Because of our ignorance we stand in need of His prophetic office; because of our estrangement from God and the imperfection of our services at their best, we need His priestly office to reconcile us to God and render us acceptable to Him; because we have turned away from God and are utterly unable to return to Him, and also because we need to be rescued and rendered secure from our spiritual adversaries, we need His kingly office to convince, subdue, draw, sustain, deliver, and preserve us until we finally enter His heavenly kingdom.”

* Accepted in the Beloved ... **All glory to Him!**