

Of Christ The Mediator (1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 8, Paragraph 4

Doctrine

The Will of God and the Willingness of Christ

- It was the will of God for the Lord Christ to be the **mediator** of God's covenant of grace – that He would be crushed and die as the sufficient sacrifice for His Church (Isaiah 53:10).
- This office and task the Lord Jesus did most **willingly** undertake, knowing this to be His charge (John 10:18).

Christ, Born Under the Law, Kept the Law

- In order to discharge the Church from the bondage and penalty of sin so that they might live unto God, God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, was made (meaning placed) under the **Law** (Galatians 4:4-5).
- Christ was placed under the **Law** – meaning under a covenant of works – that He might be the better and truer Adam (Romans 5: 14).
- Christ at all times in every way **kept** the law of God (Matthew 3:15).

Christ Made Sin and Curse for Us

Apostles' Creed: . . . We believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended to the grave. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead . . .

- In His keeping of the law, the Lord Jesus underwent the punishment due to **us**, which we should have born and suffered (Isaiah 53:6).
- He was made, Himself, **sin** and a **curse** for us (Galatians 3:13).
- Christ endured grievous sufferings in His **soul** (Luke 22:41-44).
- Christ endured grievous sufferings in His **body** (John 19:16-18).
- He was crucified, and **died**, and was buried [He remained in the state of the dead], yet His body saw no corruption (Acts 13:37).

Resurrection, Ascension, Rule, Intercession, Return

- On the third day, that is the first day of the week, the Lord's Day, the Lord Christ Jesus **arose** from the dead with the same body in which He suffered (John 20:25, 27).
- The Lord Jesus then ascended into **heaven** (Luke 24:51).

Heidelberg Catechism Question 49: *What benefit do we receive from Christ's ascension into heaven?* First, that He is our Advocate in the presence of His Father in heaven. Secondly, that we have our flesh in heaven, as a sure pledge, that He, as the Head, will also take us, His members, up to Himself. Thirdly, that He sends us His Spirit, as an earnest, by whose power we seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God, and not things on the earth.

- It is there in heaven He sits at the right hand of the Father, making **intercession** (Hebrews 9:24, 10:12).

Heidelberg Catechism Question 51: *What benefit do we receive from this glory of our Head, Christ?* First, that by His Holy Spirit He sheds forth heavenly gifts in us, His members; then, that by His power He defends and preserves us against all enemies.

- He shall return to **judge** men and angels at the end of the world (Acts 10:42, 2 Peter 2:4).

Heidelberg Catechism Question 5: *What comfort is it to you that Christ shall come again to judge the quick and the dead?* That in all my sorrows and persecutions, with uplifted head, I look for the self-same One, who has before offered Himself for me to the judgment of God and removed from me all curse, to come again as Judge from heaven; who shall cast all His and my enemies into everlasting condemnation, but shall take me, with all His chosen ones, to Himself, into heavenly joy and glory.

Application:

- 1) **Protection:** The Church must guard the truth of Scripture entrusted us from all falsehood; we must love and protect right doctrine.
- 2) **Proclamation:** The Church is to proclaim the whole counsel of God throughout the nations, beginning in our homes and congregation.