

Sunday School

Second London Baptist Confession - Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day (Chapter 22)

The Elements of Biblical Worship (Paragraph 5)

1. Prayer
2. Public reading of Scripture
3. Preaching (includes hearing)
4. Singing
5. Lord's Supper/Baptism
6. Special occasions

C. Hearing the Word (see Expository Listening)

1. Hearing is an important act of worship. ~ Lk. 8:18
2. Hearing must be with a view to obedience ~ Heb. 4:1-2; Jn. 7:17
3. We need to come to hear with hunger and humility ~ Job 23:13; James 1:21
4. LC Question 160: What is required of those that hear the Word preached?
Answer: It is required of those that hear the Word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; examine: What they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives.

D. Singing

1. Eph. 5:18-21; Col. 3:16
2. What are these songs?
3. They teach and admonish
4. With grace in our hearts

E. The ordinances (see Chapters 28-30) See my chapter in The Confessing Baptist

F. The attitude of worship

1. To be performed in obedience to Him
2. With understanding ~ Col. 1:9-10
3. Faith ~ Heb. 11:6
4. Reverence ~ Heb. 12:28
5. Godly fear ~ Psa 22:23, 25

G. Special occasions of worship

1. Solemn humiliation
2. With fastings and thanksgivings
3. Upon special occasions
4. Ought to be used in a holy and religious manner



Sunday School

Directory of Public Worship Chapter V ~ Special Occasions of Public Worship

Under the gospel, we are commanded to keep no other particular day holy, except the Lord's Day. Nevertheless, God's people may observe special occasions as the dispensations of God's providence administer cause and opportunity. Such observance is both consonant with Scripture and pastorally appropriate.

A. Prayer and Fasting

1. When great and notable calamities come upon or threaten the church, community, or nation, when judgment is deserved because of sin, when the people seek some special blessing from the Lord, or when a pastor is to be ordained or installed, it is fitting that the people of God engage in times of solemn prayer and fasting.
2. Prayer and fasting may be observed by private individuals and families at their discretion or by the Church at the discretion of the appropriate judicatory. If the civil authority calls for a time of prayer and fasting that the judicatories of the Church deem to be in harmony with the Scriptures, they should consider issuing such a call to their members.
3. Public notice is to be given before the time of prayer and fasting comes, to enable persons to order their temporal affairs so that they can participate.
4. It is especially appropriate on days of prayer and fasting called by the Church that the people of God gather for a time of prayer, the singing of psalms and hymns, and the reading and preaching of the Word of God. Let them lament their distress or unworthiness before the Lord, confess their sins, humbly implore the Lord for deliverance from the judgment present or imminent or for the blessing sought, and commit themselves anew to the faithful service of the Lord their God. It is fitting on such days that God's people abstain from food and from such activities as may distract from their solemn engagement in prayer.

B. Thanksgiving

1. When God's blessings on the church, community, or nation are particularly evident, it is fitting that the people of God engage in special times of thanksgiving.
2. Special times of thanksgiving may be observed by private individuals and families at their discretion or by the Church as called by the appropriate judicatory. If the civil authority calls for a time of thanksgiving that the judicatories of the Church deem to be in harmony with the Scriptures, they should consider issuing such a call to their members.
3. Public notice is to be given before the day of thanksgiving comes, to enable persons to order their temporal affairs so that they can participate.
4. It is especially appropriate on special days of thanksgiving called by the Church that the people of God gather for prayer, testimony to God's blessings, joyful singing of psalms and hymns, and the reading and preaching of the Word of God. Let them give thanks to God for his goodness to his people and especially for the greatness of his mercies to them in Christ. And let them commit themselves anew to the faithful service of the Lord their God in gratitude for his blessings. It is fitting on such days that God's people spend the day in expressions of Christian love and charity toward one another, rejoicing more and more in the Lord, as becomes those who make the joy of the Lord their strength. Also, they may feast together before the Lord with joy and thanksgiving.

