

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

CHAPTER 32.—*Of the state of men after death, and of the Resurrection of the dead.*

III. The bodies of the unjust, shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonor: the Bodies of the just, by his Spirit, unto honor; and, made conformable to his own glorious Body¹.

Question 1.—*Will the bodies of the unjust, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonor?*

Answer.—Yes. Phil. 3:21. Thus do the Socinians err who maintain that there shall be no resurrection of the unjust. They are confuted for the following reasons: 1.) Because the apostle says, we must all appear before the judgment-seat of Christ, that every man may receive the things done in the body, 2 Cor. 5:10. 2.) Because the hour is coming when all that are in their graves shall hear his voice and shall come forth, they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation, John 5:28, 29. 3.) Because the apostle says, being accused by Tertullus, there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust, Acts 24:15. 4.) Because according to Enoch's prophecy, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them, Jude 14, 15. 5.) Because many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to everlasting contempt, Dan. 12:2.

Question 2.—*Shall the bodies of the just, by Christ's Spirit, be raised unto honor?*

Answer.—Yes. Isa. 26:19; Col. 3:4. Thus do the Anabaptists, Arminians, Socinians and others err who maintain that it is not the self-same bodies laid in the dust which are raised. They are confuted for the following reasons: 1.) Because the prophet Isaiah declares the victory of the just over death, Isa. 25:8. But as the apostle points out, death is not destroyed unless the body is raised, 1 Cor. 15:54. 2.) Because Luke characterizes the resurrection as "the resurrection of the just", which owes largely to the fact that the fruit and comfort of the resurrection does properly and only appertain to them, Luke 14:14. Likewise, believers are named "children of the resurrection" to signify this comfort, Luke 20:36. 3.) The honor of the saints in their resurrection is also noted by the glory they shall display, Matt. 13:43.

We teach, that while Christ, as King in Zion, commands the resurrection of both, it is in different relations. The resurrection of His people being a gift of His purchase, is effectuated in them by the union to Him, and is one result of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, 2 Cor. 4:14; Rom. 8:11. The resurrection of the evil is an act of pure dominion, effected in them by His avenging sovereignty, John 5:28, 29.

Question 3.—*Shall the bodies of the just, be made conformable to Christ's own glorious body?*

Answer.—Yes. 1 John 3:2. Thus do the Socinians, some Anabaptists, and others err maintaining that the bodies of the just are changed into something other, but not made conformable to Christ's own glorious body. They are confuted for the following reasons: 1.) Our bodies are the members of Christ, 1 Cor. 6:15. The bodies of the just are to be

¹ Acts 24:15; John 5:28, 29; 1 Cor. 15:43; Phil. 3:21.

raised spiritual, 1 Cor. 15:44; now, our resurrection is to be because of and like that of Christ, which was of his identical body, therefore, they should be made conformable to his glorious body at the resurrection, John 20:27. 2.) The resurrected bodies of the just are said to be like Christ's body, Phil. 3:21. 3.) The bodies of the just shall, like Christ, Rom. 6:4, be raised glorious, incorruptible, and powerful, 1 Cor. 15:54. 4.) Like as Christ's resurrected body shall never die, Rom. 6:9, so too, the bodies of the just shall never again see death, Rev. 21:4. 5.) This spiritual body will be conformable unto that of our Lord's which though spiritual was yet material, Luke 24:39; Phil. 3:21. 6.) The hope held out in the promise of Christ's resurrection, points to the conformability of the bodies of the just unto him, 1 Cor. 15:20; 1 Pet. 1:3.