

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

CHAPTER 8.-Of Christ the Mediatour.

VIII. To all those for whom Christ hath purchased Redemption, he doth certainly, and effectually apply, and communicate the same¹, making intercession for them², and revealing unto them, in, and by the Word, the mysteries of salvation³, effectually perswading them by his Spirit, to beleeve, and obey, and governing their hearts by his Word and Spirit⁴, overcoming all their enemies by his Almighty Power and Wisedome, in such manner, and wayes, as are most consonant to his wonderfull and unsearchable dispensation⁵.

Question 1.—*Does Christ effectually apply and communicate the redemption he has purchased to all those for whom he has purchased the same?*

Answer.—Yes. John 6:37, 39; 10:15, 16. To “purchase redemption” is used in the Confession in the same sense of the phrase to “make atonement for sin,” Lev. 6:7. Christ, as mediatorial King, seated at the right hand of God, applies the redemption he had effected as Priest to the proper subjects of it, Rom. 3:23, 24. The sacrifice of Christ derived infinite value from the dignity of his person; it must, therefore, have been intrinsically sufficient to expiate the sins of the whole human race, had it been so intended, Acts 20:28; but, in the designation of the Father, and in the intention of Christ himself, it was limited to a definite number, who shall ultimately obtain salvation, John 6:45. Restrictive terms are frequently employed in Scripture to express the objects of the death of Christ, Isa. 53:12; Matt. 20:28. Those for whom Christ died are distinguished from others by discriminating characters, John 7:24. They are called *sheep*, John 10:15; *God’s elect*, Rom. 8:33; the *children of God*, John 11:52. Those whom Christ redeemed by his blood are said to be “redeemed from among men,” Rev. 14:4. The redemption obtained by Christ is restricted to those who were “chosen in him,” and whom the Father gave to him to redeem by his death, Eph. 1:4, 7; John 17:2. The intention of Christ in laying down his life was not merely to obtain for those for whom he died a possibility of salvation, but actually to save them, Eph. 5:25, 26; Tit. 2:14; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Thess. 5:10.

Question 2.—*Does Christ make intercession for those for whom he purchased redemption?*

Answer.—Yes. 1 John 2:1, 2; Rom. 8:34. The intercession of Christ proceeds upon the ground of his atoning sacrifice, John 17:11; they must, therefore, be of the same extent with regard to their objects, Isa. 53:10, 11; but he does not pray for the world, but only for those who were given him out of the world, John 17:9; his sacrifice must therefore be restricted to that definite number purchased, John 6:44.

¹ John 6:37, 39; 10:15, 16.

² 1 John 2:1, 2; Rom. 8:34.

³ John 15:13, 15; Eph. 1:7-9; John 17:6.

⁴ John 14:16; Heb. 12:2; 2 Cor. 4:13; Rom. 8:9, 14; Rom. 15:18, 19; John 17:17.

⁵ Ps. 110:1; 1 Cor. 15:25, 26; Mal. 4:2, 3; Col. 2:15.

Question 3.—*Does Christ reveal unto those for whom he purchased redemption, in, and by the Word, the mysteries of salvation?*

Answer.—Yes. John 15:13, 15; Eph. 1:7-9; John 17:6. The things requisite for our salvation, not being taught by nature, and our natural minds being blinded and at enmity toward the divine truth, it has pleased Christ in and by his Word to reveal to us the mysteries of salvation: 1.) Our understanding must be renewed, Col. 3:10. 2.) Our minds must by the teaching be transformed into God's image, 2 Cor. 3:18. 3.) The Son of God must be revealed in us, Gal. 1:15, 16.

Question 4.—*Does Christ persuade those for whom he purchased redemption by his Spirit to believe and obey and govern their hearts by his Word and Spirit?*

Answer.—Yes. John 14:16; Heb. 12:2; 2 Cor. 4:13; Rom. 8:9, 14; Rom. 15:18, 19; John 17:17. The Holy Spirit is Christ's agent for saving teaching, 2 Thess. 2:13. None can resist the light, or refuse compliance, when the Spirit brings home the Word for regeneration and sanctification, John 6:45. The Spirit of Christ does bring everyone savingly enlightened: 1.) To be meek and lowly, Prov. 25:9. 2.) To love the truth, and prefer it to all things, Prov. 2:3-5. 3.) To obey the truth, John 7:17. 4.) To embrace the truth, though it bring persecution, or require us to deny ourselves of all idols, Gal. 1:15, 16.

Question 5.—*Does he overcome all their enemies by his Almighty power and wisdom, in such manner, and ways, as are most consonant to his wonderful and unsearchable dispensation?*

Answer.—Yes. Ps. 110:1; Mal. 4:2, 3; Col. 2:15. He overcomes them by restraining them, Ps. 76:10, and by turning their wickedness for good to the church and conquering them, 1 Cor. 15:25, 26.

Question 6.—*What are some of the implications of this?*

Answer.—The implications of this teaching are as follows: 1.) Christ died with the purpose of executing the decree of election, John 15:13. 2.) The design in making atonement was definite, having respect to certain definite persons—the elect and none others, Rev. 5:9, 10. 3.) Jesus designed to secure the salvation of those for whose sake he rendered satisfaction, not merely to make their salvation possible, but to purchase for them inalienably faith and repentance, actual reconciliation and adoption of sons, Matt. 1:21. 4.) He in time applies it effectually and certainly, by his Spirit, to all those for whom he purchased it, Gal. 1:4.