

**The 1689 Confession of Faith; Chapter 2 – “Of God and the Holy Trinity”, Message
1 – “The Only True and Living God”, Presented in the Adult Sunday School
Class by Pastor Paul Rendall on August 7th, 2016.**

Psalm 115: 1-11 – “Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth. Why should the Gentiles say, "So where is their God?" But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; they have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them. O Israel, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield. You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.”

The object in knowing God, we are told here, is to trust in Him as the only true and living God, because in trusting in Him we will find that He is our help and our shield in all the various situations of our lives. The Gentiles of that day, who did not know God like to trust in their false gods whom they could see; idols of silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. They have mouths, eyes, ears noses hands, feet, but can do nothing with them. They are not true and they are not living. But it is to God’s name and to His being that we are to give glory. The Gentiles only say, “So where is their God?”, because they cannot see Him and perhaps they do not see the evidence of His working in our lives. By the grace of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, we should attempt to show them and tell them more about God and the works that He does in the creation and in saving grace in salvation of people through the gospel.

Chapter 2 – Of God and the Holy Trinity, Paragraph 1 -

The Lord our God is but (a)one only living and true God; whose (b)subsistence is in and of Himself, (c)infinite in being and perfection; whose essence cannot be comprehended by any but Himself; (d)a most pure spirit, (e) invisible, without body, parts, or passions, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; who is (f)immutable, (g)immense, (h)eternal, incomprehensible, (i)almighty, every way infinite, (k)most holy, most wise, most free, most absolute; (l)working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, (m)for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; (n)the rewarder of them that diligently seek him, and withal most just (o)and terrible in his judgments, (p)hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the (q)guilty.

a 1st Corinthians 8: 4 and 6; Deuteronomy 6: 4; b Jeremiah 10: 10; Isa 48: 12; c Exodus 3: 14; d John 4: 24; e 1st Timothy 1: 17; Deut. 4: 15-16; f Malachi 3:6; g 1st Kings 8: 27; Jeremiah 23: 23; h Psalm 90: 2; j Genesis 17: 1; k Isa 6: 3; l Psalm 115: 3; Isa 46: 10; m Pro 16: 4; Rom 11: 36; n Exodus 34: 6-7; Hebrews 11:6; o Nehemiah 9: 32-33; p Psalm 5: 5-6; q Exodus 34:7; Nahum 1: 2-3

The Westminster Shorter Catechism states in Question 4 – “What is God?” “God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.”

Question 5 states: Are there more Gods than one ?
Answer: There is but One only, the living and true God.

Deuteronomy 4: 33-39 – “Did any people ever hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live? Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him. Out of heaven He let you hear His voice, that He might instruct you; on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire. And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power, driving out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land as an inheritance, as it is this day. Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.”

Deuteronomy 6: 4 – “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!” “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.”

It is very important as a part of our witness to our glorious Triune God, that we are able to declare before other people around us, that we believe that He is the One and only True and Living God. This declaration is an important part of the battle for truth and righteousness which is taking place in the world today. For if you declare that there is only one True and Living God, then you will worship and serve only the one True and Living God. And furthermore, you will be attempting to show other people around you that the gods which they worship and serve are false, and that our God alone is to be worshiped.

Look with me at 1st Corinthians 8: 1-7 – “Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.” “And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.” “But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.” “Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.” “For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.” “However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience being weak, is defiled.”

We see here that all Christians have a certain amount of knowledge concerning God. We find here in these verses certain truths which are very important to our “knowing as we ought to know”. We are told here that there must be in every Christian the love of God in active practice if they would know God aright. A love for God coupled with a willingness to learn and grow in the knowledge of God will consider how we should live in a world where many people hold to false gods. False gods are the idols which are mentioned in our text. They are described as “nothing in the world”, and the Christian knows that they are nothing, because there is no God but the God of the Bible. There may be many gods and many lords among men, but among Christians, there is only the recognition of the True and Living God. If anyone loves the only True and Living God, they are known by Him it says in verse 3. Psalm 145: 20 says: “The preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy.” For us, as Christians there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.”