

I. HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION: THE RELEVANCE OF THE DOCTRINE (see II)

A. INTRODUCTION TO OUR SPIRITUAL ANCESTORS (17Sep14; Sterling, NY)

1. Worthy of Imitation (Heb.13:7)
2. Prayer for Revival (Ps.126:1f & 4f)

B. A COMPLICATED HISTORY

1. In Sterling (c.1815-1915)

- a. Associate Reformed Presbyterians in Sterling Valley, NY (Hunter house here!)
- b. Reformed Presbyterians (Covenanters) in Sterling Center, NY (yet first building in Sterling Valley)

2. In Scotland

- a. 1639: *National Covenant* of Scotland (Christ is King of Church and State of Scotland)
- b. 1643: *Solemn League & Covenant* (Christ is King of Church and States of Scotland, England & Ireland)
- c. 1688: William of Orange, Revolution Settlement (Covenants ignored, Covenanters stayed out of estab.CoS)
- d. 1733: Associate Presbytery (AP) pulled out of CoS (king head of church and state; lay patronage)
- e. 1744: Reformed Presbytery (RP) pulled out CoS (king head of church and state; lay patronage)

3. In America

- a. 1782: AP + RP = ARP (Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church)
- b. 1782 (also): Most Covenanters joined ARP; rest maintained “perpetual obligation of the Covenants” (RPC)
- c. 1787: *Constitution* signed
- d. 1789: *Bill of Rights* (first ten amendments)
- e. 1815: RPC (Covenanter) church in Sterling, NY, organized (approximate date); ARP also?
- f. 1833: “New Light” RPC *tolerated* Constitution; “Old Light” RPC *rejected* Constitution (esp. slavery; URR?!)
 - (1) “Old Light” RPC *rejected* in “political dissent” (not: vote, hold office, swear allegiance incl. military)
 - (2) Pastor Wm. L. Roberts, Sterling, NY (“Old Light” RPC; seems forbear *non*-dissenting; Hunter son, NYS legislature)
- g. 1915: RPC (Covenanter) in Sterling, NY closed (approximate date)
- h. 1928: “political dissent” modified significantly to private conscience vs. public testimony, discipline
- i. 1969: “political dissent” no longer an RPC distinctive in practice
- j. 1980: “political dissent” no longer a part of the RPC Testimony (= former “New Light”; note ARP position)
- k. 2015: joint RPC & ARP Synods in Bonclarken, NC (SVCC?!)

4. Summary of Scotland and America

- a. Scotland: *ignored confession* in Covenants that Christ is King of the Nation
- b. America: *failed even to confess* Christ as King of the nation (versus many state constitutions)

5. Summary of Sterling ARP and Sterling RPC (Covenanter)

- a. Sterling ARP: confessed Christ as King of the nations and *tolerated* Constitution
- b. Sterling RPC: confessed Christ as King of the nation and *rejected* Constitution with political dissent

(completed on reverse)

II. BIBLICAL DEMONSTRATION: THE MEDIATORIAL KINGSHIP OF CHRIST

A. DEFINITION: CHRIST'S RULE OVER ALL THINGS IN HIS INCARNATE STATE (God-man)

B. VERY SELECTIVE BIBLICAL PROOFS

1. Adam: Dominion (Gen.1:26f; Ps.8:6; see 1Cor.15:22f)
2. Judah: Scepter (Gen.49:10; Ps.60:7)
3. David: Son (2Sam.7:12f,19f; Lk.1:32)
4. Psalms: Absolute (Ps.2:1f,7 (Acts 13:33); 110:1f (Heb.5-7); 89, 132)
5. Isaiah: Nations (Is.9:6; 42:1f; 49:6,7; 60:3)
6. Daniel: Final (Dan.2:21,44f; 4:17f; 7:14,15 (Mt.24:30; 26:64; Acts 1:9f)
7. JESUS: TESTIMONY (Mt.19:28; 24:30; 26:64 (Dan.7:14f); 28:18f; Jn.18:37; Rev.3:21)
8. Peter: Begun (Acts 1:32,33 (22f; Ps.16,110); 1Pt.3:22; see 7:56; 17:31; 1Cor.15:24-28)
9. Paul: Universal (Eph.1:17-23; Phil.2:9-11; Col.1:15-20)
10. John: Revelation (Rev.3:21; 5:5f,12f; 7:17; 12:5f; 22:1f)

III. PRACTICAL APPLICATION: THE TAPROOT OF FAITH & LIFE (Acts 2:32f; Eph.1:18f)

A. POINT: JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OVER ALL! (Acts 2:32,33; 36; 1Cor.12:3; Phil.2:9-11; Rev.5:12f)

B. KEY: THIS CONFESSION VS. MERE MORAL INTEGRITY (root & fruit; see Eph.1:18f, then c.2-6)

C. DANGER: HISTORY AS LAW & POLITICS AS GOSPEL (vs. Scripture & Christ; see Mt.28:18-20)

D. POLITICAL DISSENT: LEGITIMATE BUT NOT NECESSARY (Rom.14:1-4; see c.14,15; see Dan.1:8f,18f; 3:16f; 6:1f)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)