

First Baptist Church of Clinton, Louisiana
 1689 Second London Baptist Confession
 “Chapter 16, Of Good Works”
 “Chapter 17, Of the Perseverance of the Saints”
 April 22, 2018

CHAPTER 16 “Of Good Works”

- Paragraph 7 – God's Rejection of Non-Christian Good Works
 - First, works done by unregenerate men may actually be commanded by God and very useful to others. 2 Kgs 10:30; 1 Kgs 21:27, 29
 - Second, the good works of lost people lack three things:
 1. They don't proceed from a heart purified by faith. Gen 4:5; Heb 11:4, 6
 2. They aren't done in the right manner according to the Word. 1 Cor 13:1
 3. They aren't done for the glory of God. Matt 6:2, 5
 - Third, as a result of these realities, the works of lost people must be viewed in two ways. Amos 5:21-22; Rom 9:16; Titus 3:5
 1. Even though they are good works, they are basically and inherently sinful.
 2. These works of the unregenerate do not qualify a man for grace from God.
 - Fourth, if lost men don't do any good works at all, it deepens their sin, and incurs God's displeasure. Job 21:14-15; Matt 25:41-43
- The Bottom Line: Believers always and actually *do* good works. They're not perfect good works, but they are really good works. Unbelievers can *outwardly* do good works, but from God's perspective, they aren't truly or inherently good, though they benefit society.

CHAPTER 17 “Of the Perseverance of the Saints”

- Paragraph 1 – The Doctrine of Perseverance
 - Fourfold relationship to God's purpose in salvation.
 - First, perseverance flows out of eternity.
 - Second, perseverance flows out of effectual calling.
 - Third, perseverance flows out of sanctification.
 - Fourth, perseverance flows out of faith.

- The Negative Definition. The confession says that believers “can neither totally nor finally fall from a state of grace.”
- The Positive Definition. It says the believer “shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.”
- The Reasons for Perseverance.
 - First, God's acts cannot be reversed.
 - Second, God continues His work by producing many graces in believers.
 - Scripture: John 10:28-29; Phil 1:6; 2 Tim 2:19; 1 Jn 2:19
- The Factors Necessitating Perseverance.
 - Three Temptations: The World, The Flesh, The Devil.
 - The Effects of these Three Temptations.
 - “The sensible sight of the light and love of God may for a time be clouded and obscured from them.” Psalm 89:31-32; 1 Cor 11:32
 - “Yet they shall never be able to take them off that foundation and rock which by faith they are fastened upon.”
- The Factors that Assist our Perseverance
 - The Immutability of God. “Yet He is still the same.”
 - The Power of God. “They shall be sure to be kept by the power of God unto salvation, where they shall enjoy their purchased possession.”
 - The Knowledge of God. “They being engraven upon the palm of His hands.”
 - The Unconditional Promise of God. “Their names having been written in the book of life from all eternity.”
- Paragraph 2 – The Threefold Basis of Perseverance
 - A Negative Basis. “Depends not upon their own free will.”
 - The Threefold Positive Basis.
 - The Immutability of God's Character.
 - First, God's immutable decree.

- Second, God's unchanging love.
- Scripture: Rom 8:30; 9:11, 16
- The Work of Christ. Four parts.
 - First, the intercession and merit of Jesus Christ. Rom 5:9-10; Jn 14:19
 - Second, union with Christ.
 - Third, the oath of God. Heb 6:17-18
 - Fourth, the abiding of Christ's Spirit and regeneration. 1 Jn 3:9
- The Nature of the Covenant of Grace. Jer 32:40
 - And what is the nature of the covenant of grace? It is not conditional in the sense that there are no conditions you have to meet to get into the covenant of grace.
 - Many misunderstand this and they think that we must first believe and then we can be joined to Christ in the covenant of grace.
 - If that's the case, and if we had to believe to get into Christ, then we might stop believing and fall out of Christ.
 - But if union with Christ in the covenant of grace comes before we believe, then nothing we do is a condition of remaining in Christ.
- READ Paragraph 3 – The Certainty of Perseverance
 - The Obstacles. “the temptation of Satan and of the world, the prevalence of corruption remaining in them.”
 - These three are: The devil, the world, the flesh.
 - Two ways that the flesh becomes an obstacle.
 - First, because of the strength of indwelling sin.
 - But second, because believers sometimes neglect the means of grace.
 - Temporal Problems.
 - First, believers may “fall into grievous sins.”
 - Second, believers may “for a time continue therein.” David's sins lasted as long as 9 months. It wasn't until after the baby was born that Nathan confronted him. Matt 26:70-74.
 - Third, believers may “incur God's displeasure.”
 - Fourth, believers can “grieve His Holy Spirit.” Is 64:5, 9; Eph 4:30

- Fifth, believers can “have their graces and comforts impaired.” Ps 51:10-12
 - Sixth, they can “have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded.” Ps 32:3-4
 - Seventh, they can “hurt and scandalize others.”
 - Eighth, they can “bring temporal judgments upon themselves.” 2 Sam 12:14
- The Certain Result. “They shall renew their repentance and be preserved through faith in Christ Jesus to the end.” Lk 22:32, 61, 62