

First Baptist Church of Clinton, Louisiana  
 1689 Second London Baptist Confession  
 “Chapters 17 & 18, Of the Perseverance of the Saints; Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation”  
 May 13, 2018

## CHAPTER 17 “Of the Perseverance of the Saints”

- 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

## CHAPTER 18 “Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation”

- Paragraph 1: The Possibility of Assurance
  - The Reality of Delusion. “Although temporary believers and other unregenerate men, may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in favor of God, and in a state of salvation, which hope of their shall perish” Job 8:13-14; Matt 7:22-23
  - The Contrast with True Believers. “Yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus and love Him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before Him, may in this life be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory

of God.” 1 John 2:3; 3:14-24; 5:13

- Paragraph 2: The Foundation of Assurance
  - The Primary Objective Ground of Assurance “An infallible assurance of faith, founded on the blood and righteousness of Christ revealed in the Gospel”
    - “Infallible” means without doubt. Hebrews 6:11, 19
    - Thus, the first ground of our assurance is to look to Christ. This is a Christ-centered doctrine of assurance in our confession of faith. Hebrews 6:17-18
  - The Secondary Subjective Grounds of Assurance “And also upon the inward evidence of those graces of the Spirit unto which promises are made; and on the testimony of the Spirit of adoption, witnessing with our spirits that we are children of God; and as a fruit thereof, keeping the heart both humble and holy.” Two syllogisms here.
    - The Practical Syllogism. 2 Pet 1:4-5, 10-11
      - Major Premise: According to Scripture, only those who possess saving faith will receive the Spirit's testimony that their lives manifest the fruits of sanctification and good works.
      - Minor Premise: I cannot deny that by the grace of God, I have received the Spirit's testimony that I may manifest fruits of sanctification and good works.
      - Conclusion: I may be assured that I am a partaker of saving faith.
    - The Mystical Syllogism. Rom 8:15-16
      - Major Premise: According to Scripture, only those who possess saving faith will experience the Spirit's testimony confirming inward grace and godliness such that self will decrease and Christ will increase.
      - Minor Premise: I experience the Spirit's testimony confirming inward grace and godliness such that I decrease and Christ increases.
      - Conclusion: I may be assured that I am a partaker of saving faith.
- Paragraph 3: The Cultivation of Assurance
  - First, believers may have to wait for assurance of faith. “A true believer may wait long.” Isa 50:10; Ps 88:1-18; Ps 77:1-12
  - Second, but they may attain assurance “without extraordinary revelation,” but may attain it through “the right use of means.” 1 Jn 4:13; Heb 6:11-12
  - Third, it is a duty of believers to attain assurance. “It is the duty of every one to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure”

- Fourth, true assurance brings blessed fruit. Peace, joy, love, thankfulness, strength and cheerfulness. Rom 5:1-5; 14:17; Ps 119:32
- Fifth, it is far “from inclining men to looseness.”
- Paragraph 4: The Renewal of Assurance
  - Means of Losing Assurance. Song 5:2-6
    - Shaken – Great damage.
    - Diminished – It is decreased.
    - Intermitted – it goes in and out.
  - Why does it happen? Ps 116:11; 77:7-8; 31:22
    - Negligence in preserving it.
    - By falling into sin.
    - By vehement temptation.
    - By God's act: withdrawing the light of His countenance. Ps 30:7
  - They Never Lose their Salvation for Six Reasons. These six things are the means of restoring assurance or at least of preventing utter despair unto unbelief. Lam 3:26-31.
    - True believers always possess:
      - The seed of God. 1 Jn 3:9
      - The life of faith. Lk 22:32
      - The Love of Christ.
      - The Love of the brethren.
      - Sincerity of Heart.
      - Conscience of Duty.
  - Assurance may in due time be revived. Ps 42:5-11