

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 18 “Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation”

- 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