

First Baptist Church of Clinton, Louisiana

1689 Second London Baptist Confession

“Chapter 19, Of the Law of God, Chapter 20, Of the Gospel and the Extent of the Grace Thereof”

August 5, 2018

- The Law and the *Ordo Salutis*

- Paragraph 6.

- The law must be understood carefully in relation to the believer.
 - First, the law is not a covenant of works. Rom 7:1-6; 10:4; 2 Cor 3:7
 - Second, the law is of use as a “rule of life.” Jas 2:12; Rom 7:25
 - It's a tool of self-examination.
 - 1. It convicts us of sin.
 - 2. It produces humiliation.
 - 3. It promotes the hatred of sin.
 - 4. It gives us a clearer sight of the Savior, pressing us closer to Him. Anything that drives us closer to Christ is our friend!
 - It is a check on sins.
 - 1. It restrains our corruptions by forbidding sins.
 - 2. It shows you the penalties that are due to your sins.
 - 3. It sheds light on your afflictions.
 - It contains promises to the believer, but not of eternal life. Heb 11:24-26.

- Paragraph 7. The Law and the Gospel

- First, notice that the law and the gospel sweetly comply. Gal. 3:21. How?
 - First, the law as a covenant of eternal life complies with the gospel by exposing our sin and our need of Christ's imputed righteousness in the gospel.
 - Second, the law as a rule complies with the gospel promise by showing us how to express our love to the One who bought us.
 - Second, the Spirit accompanies the law and enables the believer to keep it. Ezek 36:27. The law helps us to know what is our duty to God and by the Spirit, we can obey it.

Chapter 20: Of the Gospel and the Extent of the Grace Thereof

- This chapter is completely new and not found in the WCF. Why is it new? It confronts several errors.
 - It confronts Arminianism and Socinianism.
 - It confronts Richard Baxter.
 - It confronts the ecclesiology and mission strategies of non-Independents (Presbyterians, Anglicans).
- So, what about the title of this chapter? This chapter is not about the gospel in itself, but an

assertion of the necessity of the gospel for salvation.

- Paragraph 1: The First Revelation of the Gospel
 - Free Offer: **“God was pleased to give forth the promise of Christ, the seed of the woman, as the means of calling the elect”** is meant to convey a free offer of the gospel.
 - The Gospel is the Only Ordained Way: **“effectual for the conversion and salvation for sinners.”**
 - Scripture: Gen 3:15; Rev 13:8
- Paragraph 2: The Gospel is Revealed in Scripture Alone
 - Notice the things that do not reveal the gospel.
 - First, the works of creation don't reveal the gospel.
 - Second, the works of God's providence don't reveal the gospel.
 - Not even in a general or obscure way. Rom 10:14-15, 17
 - What reveals the gospel? **“The promise of Christ and salvation by Him is revealed only by the Word of God.”** Rom 1:17
 - Men are only enabled to believe and repent by the gospel. Prov 29:18; Isa 25:7; Isa 60:2-3
- Paragraph 3: The Sovereignty of God in the Revelation of the Gospel
 - The progress of special revelation depends solely on the sovereignty of God. Ps 147:19-20; Matthew 11:26; Acts 16:6-7.
 - Also, this paragraph teaches that the gospel never goes to a particular culture because there is some sort of good to be found in that culture. Rom 1:18-32
- Paragraph 4: Word and Spirit
 - The Gospel is **“The only outward means of revealing Christ and saving grace.”**
 - But **“There is moreover necessary an effectual insuperable work of the Holy Spirit”** for salvation.
 - Scripture on the necessity of both Word and Spirit: Ps 110:3; 1 Cor 2:14; Eph 1:19-20; Jn 6:44; 2 Cor 4:4-6

