

## WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH SHORTER CATECHISM

### LESSON # 19 (Q2LES6)- GOD'S APPLICATION OF REDEMPTION QUESTIONS # 29, & 30

#### 1. Prayer

#### 2. Bible reading: Matt 22: 1 - 14

3. **Review:** We are still working on the subject of redemption, which we started in questions 20. We've learned that from all eternity God elected some to everlasting life, and the elect are saved by grace through God's redeemer. The only redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, and that Christ, while still God, became man to perfectly fulfil the covenant of works. Christ, as our redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, a priest, and a king. In question 27 we discussed Christ's humiliation, learning that Christ was humiliated in His birth, in His life, and in His death. And in question 28 we learned that Christ was exalted in His resurrection, in His ascension, in His sitting at the right hand of God, and, finally, in His coming to judge the world at the final day.

4. Introduction: This week we will begin our discussion on God's application of redemption to His elect. We will begin by looking at SC questions 29 and 30. The LC covers some material that is not covered in the SC, and we will take a look at this material also.

#### 5. Questions:

Question 29 **How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?**

Answer: **We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.**

Question 30 **How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?**

Answer: **The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.**

#### 6. The WCF, LC, and SC

The SC covers the application of redemption in two questions, q29 & 30. The WCF covers the subject in c8p8, which we will look at later. The LC covers the application of redemption in three questions, q 57, 58, & 59. However it spends an additional 6 questions, q60 through 65 discussing associated subjects which are not covered in the SC or the WCF.

## 7. PARTAKERS OF THE REDEMPTION PURCHASED BY CHRIST

a. LC Q57 asks, *“What benefits hath Christ procured by his mediation?”*

It answers, *“Christ, by his mediation, hath procured redemption, with all other benefits of the covenant of grace.”*

By whom is our redemption procured? Christ

So Christ, by His mediation, has procured two benefits for us:

- Redemption (**Heb 9:12** *“Neither by blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”*)
- All other benefits of the covenant of grace (**2 Cor 1:20** *“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”*)

b. A vocabulary difference has developed here between the LC and SC. The SC continually refers to Christ as our “redeemer”. The LC, on the other hand, uses the term “mediator”.

Is this important? Is there a difference in the two terms? Why the distinction in the LC and SC?

The writers must have felt that Christ acting as a mediator was too complicated for the average person to understand, so they used the term “redeemer”, being easier to understand when associated with Christ dying for our sins (q29 says *“purchased by Christ”*). LC q57 notes that, by being our mediator, Christ has procured our redemption, indicating an intervention by Him, on our behalf, to God.

c. Redemption is purchased by Christ. How is that redemption applied to us?

By the Holy Spirit. (**Tit 3: 5 – 6** *“(5)Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; (6)Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;”*)

- So, Christ, the mediator, our redeemer, purchased our redemption.
- And that redemption is applied to us by His Holy Spirit.

## 8. Application of Redemption by His Spirit

- a. How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?
- By working faith in us
  - Thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

- b. Is faith from ourselves or from God?

Our faith is from God: **(Eph 2:8 “By grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God”)**

TV, (XXX, Q4 [p90]) says, *“Though faith be our act, yet it is God’s gift, and the work of his Spirit.”*

So faith is:

- our act
- God’s gift
- the work of His Spirit

- c. What is meant by “uniting us to Christ”?

- TV says: “Christ and we are joined together and made one” **(1Cor 6:17 “But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.”)**
- The LC devotes an entire question to this subject. LC q66 says: *“The union which the elect have with Christ is the work of God’s grace, whereby they are spiritually and mystically, yet really and inseparably, joined to Christ as their head and husband; which is done in their effectual calling”*

- d. C8p8 of the WCF sums all this pretty well. It states: *“To all those for whom Christ hath purchased redemption, He doth certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same, making intercession for them, and revealing unto them, in and by the Word, the mysteries of salvation, effectually persuading them by His Spirit to believe and obey, and governing their hearts by His Word and Spirit, overcoming all their enemies by His almighty power and wisdom, in such manner, and ways, as are most consonant to His wonderful and unsearchable dispensation.”*

## 9. Associated Questions

In questions 59 through 65, the LC covers some items that are directly related to the application of redemption, but are not covered in the SC, and in some cases, the WCF.

- a. Who are made partakers of redemption through Christ? (LC q59)

It answers, *“Redemption is certainly applied, and effectually communicated, to all those for whom Christ hath purchased it; who are in time by the Holy Ghost enabled to believe in Christ according to the gospel.”* (John 6:37 - 39 <sup>(37)</sup>**All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in wise cast out.** <sup>(38)</sup>*For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.* <sup>(39)</sup>**And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.”**)

- b. (this is an interesting one) Can they who have never heard the gospel, and so know not Jesus Christ, nor believe in him, be saved by their living according to the light of nature? (LCq60)

No. It answers, *“They who, having never heard the gospel, know not Jesus Christ, and believe not in him, cannot be saved, be they never so diligent to frame their lives according to the light of nature, or the laws of that religion which they profess; neither is there salvation in any other, but in Christ alone, who is the Saviour only of his body the church.”* (Rom 10:14 **“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed: and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard: and how shall they hear without a preacher?”**) with (John 8:24 **“I say therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”**)

- c. Are all they saved who hear the gospel, and live in the church? (LCq61)

It answers, *“All that hear the gospel, and live in the visible church are not saved; but they only who are true members of the church invisible.”* (Matt 7:21 **“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”**)

10. **VISIBLE & INVISIBLE CHURCH** The term “visible church” and “invisible church” are used in the WCF and LC, and occasionally in the SC. LC questions 62 through 65 deal with the visible and invisible church. An understanding of what is meant by “visible church” and “invisible church” is important, and worth discussing.

- a. LC Q62 says: "The visible church is a society made up of all such as in all ages and places of the world do profess the true religion, and of their children."

LC q63 adds, "*Members of the visible church are under God's special care and government; being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies; and enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and offers of grace by Christ to all the members of it in the ministry of the gospel, testifying, that whosoever believes in him shall be saved, and excluding none that will come to him.*" (**John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**)")

It is worth noting that, all members of the visible church are not saved!! Remember LC q61, above that answered, "*All that hear the gospel, and live in the visible church are not saved; but they only who are true members of the church invisible.*"

- b. LC Q54 says: "The invisible church is the whole number of the elect, that have been, are or shall be gathered into one under Christ the head.". Members of the invisible church, by Christ, enjoy union and communion with him in grace and glory. (**John 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.**)")