

THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF  
FAITH  
VIII. OF CHRIST THE MEDIATOR

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

Pastor Rick Phillips

## I. GOD'S APPOINTMENT OF HIS SON

It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Savior of his church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world: unto whom he did from all eternity give a people to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

# I. GOD'S APPOINTMENT OF HIS SON

- A mediator is one who comes between two parties at variance in order to reconcile them.
- Biblical evidence for an eternal covenant (the Covenant of Redemption) whereby God the Son was appointed as Mediator:
  - “Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant” (Heb. 13:20).
  - “[K]nowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who believe” (1 Pet. 1:18-20).
  - “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations” (Isa. 42:1).
- The Covenant of Redemption:
  - God the Father appointed the Son as Mediator, promising him a people upon fulfillment of our redemption.
  - “Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring” (Isa. 53:10).
  - Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. . . . I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do” (Jn. 17:2-4).

# I. GOD'S APPOINTMENT OF HIS SON

- God's appointment of Christ as Mediator presupposes the Fall
  - “God was dishonoured, and highly offended; man was alienated from God, and subjected to his judicial displeasure; and as man was unable to satisfy the claims of the divine law which he had violated, if he was to be restored to the favour of his offended sovereign, the interposition of another person was requisite, to atone for his guilt, and lay the foundation of peace.” (R. Shaw).
  - The fact of Christ's appointment grants authority to his mediation.
    - “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever.” This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant” (Heb. 7:22).

## I. GOD'S APPOINTMENT OF HIS SON

- As Mediator, Christ was appointed by the Father as
  - Prophet: to reveal God and his will
  - Priest: to make atonement for our sins
  - King: to reign over and in us forever.
  - Head and Savior of his Church
  - The Heir of all things
  - Judge of the world

# I. GOD'S APPOINTMENT OF HIS SON

- God's gift of a people to his Son:
  - "from all eternity gave a people to be his seed" (Isa. 53:10).
  - To be "by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified."
- The Elect are a definite people, chosen in eternity, for the possession of God's Son
  - "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out" (Jn. 6:27).
  - "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd (Jn. 10:14-16).
- The *certainty* of the elect/believers being saved (not just a possibility).
  - "And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" (Jn. 6:39-40).