

Theology Simply Explained — WSC20 “The God Who Is Pleased to Save”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 20—especially explaining how salvation in Christ is God’s pleasure from all eternity.

Q20. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery? ***God having, out of His mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.***

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Was not able to. Stream, the Sabbath school yesterday because this crashed, and I didn't notice.

Catechism question this week is number 20. Did God leave all mankind to perish? In the estate of sin and misery. I'm sorry.

That tune is very inappropriate for sin and misery. Although, That is the tomb that the world plays for sin now.

All right, let's try again. Our catechism question this week is number 20, did God leave all mankind to perish? In the estate of sin and misery. The answer is. God having out of his mere. Good pleasure. From all eternity elected, some to everlasting life. Did enter into a covenant of Grace to deliver them.

Out of the estate of sin and misery. And to bring them into an estate of Salvation. By a redeemer.

Now, our being in an estate of sin and misery, we Remember. Fairly clearly from the beginning of Ephesians 2. That we were dead in trespasses. That we walked according to the prince of the power of the air. Who works in Sons of Disobedience. That we conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh.

And we're by Nature children of Wrath.

And so, That is the estate into which we fell. And Adam, but there's something before, Adam. Which the Apostle had just talked about. Some 20 verses earlier. In towards the beginning of Chapter one. Blessed. Be the God, and father of our Lord. Jesus Christ. Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing, in the Heavenly places.

In Christ. Just as he chose us in him. Before the foundation of the world that we should be holy And without blame before him in love. Having predestined us to adoption as Sons. By Jesus Christ to himself. According to the good pleasure of his will. So our being brought out of the state of sin and misery and being blessed instead with every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly places, Is in a person in a federal representative in Christ.

And we have, Uh, just come through or maybe. Not just but a few sections ago. Read and I say, oh, where the Lord is addressing his servant the Christ. And saying that he has given him as a covenant to us. But this being brought out of our state of sin and misery.

Goes back to further than Adam verse 4. He chose us in him. Before the foundation of the world. And this choosing us was, To be not in a state of sin, but a state of Holiness that we should be holy and Without Blame And not of a state of misery.

Where the misery is having lost our communion with God. But in a state of blessedness and not just Holiness but blessedness Before him. In. And adoption.

And having elected us. To. Holy and to be blessed. The way that we come in then to this adoption as sons in him.

Is by a predestining that his election drives. So he elects us in Christ and he predestines us, then to be adopted in Christ. Uh, that is the relationship between the Covenant of redemption. Which is something that Is within the godhead, the electing within Christ. And the Covenant of Grace.

Which uh he predestines to occur, which is with us in Christ. He predestines us to adoption as Sons by Jesus Christ, and all of this happens, according to something that is logically prior or really the only source of it. According To the good pleasure of his will. Not according to.

Uh, knowing anything in advance. Not according to anything in us. Only according to what? Pleases him. So, all of this by Christ, So the catechism answer is God, having out of his mere good. Pleasure from all eternity elected, some to everlasting life. There's Covenant of redemption Did enter into a covenant of Grace.

To deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery. And to bring them into an estate of Salvation. Holiness and blessedness by a redeemer. Uh, his son. Our Lord Jesus Christ. And one more thing to note. When he's talking about before the foundations of the world, notice he speaks try trinitarianly.

There about the father and and the son blessed be the God, and father of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Uh, in order for In order for this to occur before the foundations of the world, there would have to be fatherhood within God sonship, uh, within God. And of course, the spirit As well.

Yeah, so again God having out of his mere good pleasure from all eternity, he elected some to everlasting life did enter into a covenant of Grace. To deliver them out of the estate of Synod Misery. And to bring them into an estate of Salvation. By Our Redeemer.