

The 1689 Confession of Faith; Chapter 2 – “Of God and the Holy Trinity”, Message # 3 – “Infinite in Being and Perfection”, Presented in the Adult Sunday School Class by Pastor Paul Rendall on August 21st, 2016.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism states in Question 4 – “What is God?” “God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.”

Question 5 states: Are there more Gods than one ?

Answer: There is but One only, the living and true God.

Chapter 2 – Of God and the Holy Trinity, Paragraph 1 -

The Lord our God is but (a)one only living and true God; whose (b)subsistence is in and of Himself, (c)infinite in being and perfection; whose essence cannot be comprehended by any but Himself; (d)a most pure spirit, (e) invisible, without body, parts, or passions, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; who is (f)immutable, (g)immense, (h)eternal, incomprehensible, (i)almighty, every way infinite, (k)most holy, most wise, most free, most absolute; (l)working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, (m)for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; (n)the rewarder of them that diligently seek him, and withal most just (o)and terrible in his judgments, (p)hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the (q)guilty.

a 1st Corinthians 8: 4 and 6; Deuteronomy 6: 4; b Jeremiah 10: 10; Isa 48: 12; c Exodus 3: 14; d John 4: 24; e 1st Timothy 1: 17; Deut. 4: 15-16; f Malachi 3:6; g 1st Kings 8: 27; Jeremiah 23: 23; h Psalm 90: 2; j Genesis 17: 1; k Isa 6: 3; l Psalm 115: 3; Isa 46: 10; m Pro 16: 4; Rom 11: 36; n Exodus 34: 6-7; Hebrews 11:6; o Nehemiah 9: 32-33; p Psalm 5: 5-6; q Exodus 34:7; Nahum 1: 2-3

We have now seen that God is the only true and living God whose subsistence (His being, His life, His existence) is from Himself. Today I would like us to focus our thoughts upon God’s infinitude; that He is infinite in Being and Perfection. We have seen that God is independent of His creation (that is, He is transcendent; above and outside of it. And yet He is also immanent. (That is, He is present to, and active within His creation) Today we want to study the idea that God is infinite in all of His Being and attributes; without limits is His knowledge, wisdom and power. Infinite also His holiness and goodness, and perfect is He in all of His Being and all of His works.

Psalm 147: 1-6 – “Praise the Lord!” “For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.” “The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.” “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” “He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.” “Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.” “The Lord lifts up the humble; He cast the wicked to the ground.”

It is good to praise the Lord and to sing praises to our God; praise is beautiful and it is pleasant because our God is infinite in His understanding and He is almighty in His power. It is because He is infinite in these important ways that He is therefore perfect in all of His works. This is why we worship God, because His perfections lead to perfect works. He can lift up the humble; He knows how to lift them up. This is how can heal the brokenhearted; because He is the all-wise

God. This is how He is able to bind up the wounds of sin; because He being infinite in wisdom, and perfect in knowledge, was able to know how all righteousness could be fulfilled in sending His only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ to accomplish redemption. No man is like God in His Non-communicable attributes. None is like He is in wisdom and perfection. None can do what He is able to do, in creation, redemption, and providence (the governing of the world and all the affairs of men), bringing His purposes to completion and fruition, all to His glory.

1. God is infinite in His Being.

Isaiah 40: 18 – “To whom then will you liken God?” “Or what likeness will you compare to Him?”

Isaiah 40: 27 and 28 – “Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel: ‘My way is hidden from the Lord, and my just claim is passes over by my God?’ “Have you not known?” “Have you not heard?” “The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary, His understanding is unsearchable.”

Listen to Stephen Charnock in his work, *The Existence and Attributes of God*: “There are two ways of knowing or describing God : by way of affirmation, affirming that of Him in a way of eminency which is excellent in the creature, as when we say God is wise, good. The other by way of negation, when we remove from God in our conceptions what is tainted with imperfection in the creature, The first ascribes to him whatsoever is excellent, the other separates from him whatsoever is imperfect. The first is like a limning, which adds one colour to another to make a comely picture ; the other is like a carving, which pares and cuts away whatsoever is superfluous, to make a complete statue. This way of negation is more easy ; we better understand what God is not, than what he is, and most of our knowledge of God is by this way. As when we say God is infinite, immense, immutable, they are negatives; He hath no limits, is confined to no place, admits of no change. When we remove from Him what is inconsistent with his Being, we do more strongly assert his being, and know more of him when we elevate him above all, and above our own capacity.” (End of Quote)

To amplify on what Mr. Charnock has said, let’s turn over to Job chapter 11, verses 7-12 – “Can you search out the deep things of God?” “Can you find out the limits of the Almighty?” “They are higher than heaven – what can you do?” “Deeper than Sheol – what can you know?” “Their measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea.” “If He passes by, imprisons, and gathers to judgment, then who can hinder Him?” “For He knows deceitful men; He sees wickedness also.” “For an empty-headed man will be wise, when a wild donkey’s colt is born a man.”

Listen to Joseph Caryl on this verse – “Can you come to the uttermost of what God is? Or of what God does?” “Can you know God, as speak (a capite ad calcem) from head to foot, from beginning to end, from first to last, within and without?” “Can you take in all the excellencies and dimensions of God?” “You cannot do it, man, if you are more than a man, had you the understanding of an Angel you could not do it. However much you are above man, below God, you cannot find out God unto perfection; God only knows God perfectly.”

Hence, observe – “Though much of God may be found out, yet all cannot: We cannot find him out unto perfection. Finite cannot hold infinite” “some may conceit (but it is a mere conceit) that they can; as a country fellow thinks, if he were upon such a mountain which bounds the horizon, he could touch heaven, and take a star in his hand; but when he comes closer, heaven is as far off as it was, and the stars as much out of his reach, as they were, where he stood before: Such are the guesses of men about God: if they could attain such a point, and be resolved in such a doubt, then (doubtless) they should know all the mysteries of the divine nature; but if they get there, they are as far from the perfection of God as before; for how near soever we come to God, there is an infinite distance between us and God.” “Every believer is near God in affection, yet is he still infinite removes from His perfection.” “*When we seem to come nearest the perfections of God, God goes further off from us, and we have as much to seek as ever.*”

“When holy Augustine walked by the sea side, rapt in the meditation of God and of His ways, he heard a voice which bade him lade the ocean with cockle-shell: we may sooner drain the ocean with such a little shell, or with a spoon, then the perfections of God with our largest understandings.” (Practical Observations on Job, by Joseph Caryl, Vol. 4, Page 61.)

2. God is infinite in His Presence; He is Immense.

Jeremiah 23: 23 and 24 – “Am I a God near at hand,” says the Lord, “And not a God afar off” “Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?” says the Lord; do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the Lord.”

Proverbs 15: 3 – “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.”

2nd Chronicles 16: 9 – “The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”