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Section: Doctrine of Christ (Christology)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q68. What is the gospel?**

The gospel is the good news of the grace and power of God to redeem undeserving sinners to eternal life through Jesus’ perfect, sinless life; substitutional, sacrificial death; and victorious resurrection from the grave. These sinners are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus alone from the eternal wrath they deserved, and they are reconciled into an eternally secure relationship with God.

* **Introduction**

**William Tyndale:** “Evangelion [the word we translate as gospel] is a Greek word, signifying good, merry, glad and joyful news that makes a man’s heart glad and makes him sing and leap for joy.”

* **What Is the Gospel?**
* **The gospel is the good news of the grace and power of God**

**Acts 20:24** “But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

* **To redeem undeserving sinners to eternal life through Jesus’ perfect, sinless life**

**Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**Hebrews 2:10** For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

**2 Corinthians 5:21a** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin

**Romans 5:8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

* **Substitutional, sacrificial death**

**1689 Confession of Faith:** “The Lord Jesus most willingly undertook this office [of mediator]. To discharge it, he was born under the law and perfectly fulfilled it. He also experienced the punishment that we deserved and that we should have endured and suffered. He was made sin and a curse for us. He endured extremely heavy sorrows in his soul and extremely painful sufferings in his body. He was crucified and died and remained in a state of death, yet his body did not decay. On the third day he arose from the dead with the same body in which he suffered.

* **And victorious resurrection from the grave**

**1 Corinthians 15:17-22**

**1 Corinthians 15:32** What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

**John 15:20** “Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master. ' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you ...”

**Matthew 6:19-20** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

**Philippians 1:21** For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

* **These sinners are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus alone.**

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Grace:** unmerited favor (or an undeserved gift) given by an unobligated giver.

**Grace (as God’s attribute)**: Grace is a perfection of the divine character, which is exercised only toward the elect. Grace is distinguished from “mercy.” God gives unmerited grace to the guilty and unworthy that He has chosen. This includes blessings such as regeneration, faith, reconciliation, sanctification, and eternal life.

**John Owen**: “Christ did not die for any upon condition, if they believe; but he died for all God's elect, that they should believe, and believing have eternal life. It is nowhere said in Scripture, nor can it be reasonably affirmed, that if we believe, Christ died for us, as though our believing should make that to be which otherwise was not, - the act create the object; but Christ died for us that we might believe. Salvation, indeed, is bestowed conditionally; but faith, which is the condition, is absolutely procured.”

* **From the eternal wrath they deserved**

**1 Thessalonians 1:10** … Jesus … delivers us from the wrath to come.

**Romans 5:9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

* **And they are reconciled into an eternally secure relationship with God**

**Romans 8:16-17** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

**Ephesians 1:4-6** … In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

**1 Peter 1:3-5** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**Ephesians 2:4-7** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved—6and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

* **Application**

**1 Corinthians 1:18** For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

They are too in love with their sin to see any good news in the death of their sin.

**Galatians 1:6-9**

**Galatians 2:11-14**

**Matthew 23:25-26** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self- indulgence. 26 You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.”

**Ephesians 2:8-10** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**1689 Confession of Faith:** “good works, done in obedience to God’s commandments, are the fruit and evidence of a true and living faith. Through good works believers express their thankfulness,4 strengthen their assurance, build up their brothers and sisters, adorn the profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of opponents, and glorify God. Believers are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, so that they bear fruit leading to holiness and have the outcome, eternal life.”

**Mark 10:18** And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.”

**Romans 7:18** For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

**Philippians 1:21** For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.