

Let me invite you to open your bible, *or you may use one of the bibles on the chairs page-1180* to the book of **Hebrews 12:24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

We have been looking at the 1689 London Baptist Confession, which is the confession of faith that we adopt and believe in our church. We believe a solid foundation is important as we proclaim the Gospel. The confession helps to provide such a foundation, yet we always remember it is lower in rank than the word of God yet helps us to rightly interpret the scriptures, It also is a teaching tool to give us a clear outline of the basics of faith. We find a logical progression from one doctrine to another. Let me summarise this progression.

1. We began with **Holy scripture** our source of truth, our foundation for what we believe. We believe scripture is inspired it is infallible and been preserved by God. We believe scripture is the final authority in our lives.
2. Then we saw who **God** is, that He is a **triune God** Father Son and Holy Ghost.
3. We saw then **Gods Decrees** what the sovereign God has ordained. His wisdom His power.
4. God the Creator.
5. Gods Providence We saw God upholds and provides for the world He has made.
6. We saw the fall of man and the consequences of the fall.
7. The Covenant of grace the eternal covenant of peace

Today we will look at – **OUR SUBJECT IS CHRIST THE MEDIATOR OF THE COVENANT.**

Jesus Christ embodies perfectly the essence of the gospel, the angels are in awe of Him and bow down before Him, He is the source of joy and triumph for the redeemed. The name of Jesus Christ is sweet, more beautiful than music to the ear, Sweeter even than honey to the taste, and everything the heart could ever desire or need.

Let us look together at Jesus Christ who is the of the Mediator of the covenant, and the restorer of sinners to righteousness. We are going to build on this foundation, “The doctrine of Christ.” We refer to Jesus Christ as the savior, the Messiah the anointed one. As Gods people **we want to be Christ centered** and Christ focused. And **we want to be full of Christ.** We want to have a **biblical understanding** and a

biblical appreciation of Christ. We must know Him who we are talking about. We meet many people in life, at work, at school in various social circles who say they believe in Jesus Christ. They say that they do believe in Jesus Christ, yet they do not have a biblical view. Or they have only a partial view. All error and heresy comes from a partial view or exalting one particular view or attribute. I heard a simple story that highlights this- A group of blind people who had never seen an Elephant. The first one goes up to it and touches the tail I know what an elephant is like its like a rope- the next one goes up to the Elephant and touches the ear , I know what an elephant is like its like a blanket. Still another goes up and touches the leg , I know what an elephant is like its like a tree. Or one touches the trunk and says I know what an elephant is like its like a big hose pipe.... They all know some truth none of it is a lie but none of them really grasp what an elephant is like. Some may so exult the deity of Christ they don't believe the humanity of Christ. So, it's crucial we know clearly what we believe and have a full view of the fullness of Christ Jesus. **We want to honour God by having a right and biblical understanding.** Right belief honours Christ. The Bible teaches, what we call a basic orthodox view. Knowing the scriptures will cause us to know and to Confess things like **Jesus Christ is the Son of God . That Father Son and Holy Ghost are one. That Jesus Christ is Eternal.** There is so much error cults and traditions and even Pentecostal group still active today that do not believe in the trinity. So we are looking at the 'Doctrine of Christ' we are going to understand some very important truths. That will be a solid foundation for us.

There are many names Scripture has given Christ the restorer of lost mankind. But when did the plan of salvation begin? We learn from Scripture that it began before the foundation of the World. Christ's ministry was ordained before the foundation of the World. God consulted with Himself where the Father gave the son the task of becoming Incarnate. That means the Word became flesh, and gave His life a ransom for many. So the work of Christ as the mediator was in eternity passed. We read in the 1st paragraph that was totally drawn from scripture Biblical titles bestowed upon Jesus the Mediator.

1. We know Him as Saviour. *Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.* Jesus Christ is the only Saviour – for “Neither is there salvation in any other.” Acts 4:12. In Noah's

day the floods came and there was only one way to be saved from the floods and that was the Arc. In our day there is only one name given under heaven on earth among men. Jesus Christ is the only mediator.

2. Sometimes Christ is called a Redeemer: *Isaiah 59:20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. Our redeemer. "My Redeemer liveth."* Ther Hebrew word for redeemer signifies such a one as is near a-kin, and who has the right to redeem, a right to mortgage; so Christ is near of kin to us, being our elder brother, therefore hath the best right to redeem us. *Isaiah 54:5 For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.*

3. Christ is called a Mediator in the text, "Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant." The Greek word for Mediator, signifies a middle person, one that makes peace between two disagreeing parties. We were enemies with God because of our sin, now Christ acts to mediate and umpire between us, he reconciles us to God through his blood, therefore he is called the Mediator of the new covenant.

Christ takes away the enmity in us, takes away the wrath of God, and so makes peace. Christ Jesus made peace through the blood of His cross.

The care of our Lord is so great, not only is Christ the Mediator of reconciliation, but he also everliveth to make intercession for us. **He now appears in the presence of God for us:** We must consider the greatness of our Mediator. Christ didn't come alone, He came with the full approval and will of the Father, the Father was well pleased to see us redeemed Jesus well pleased to redeem and be our mediator.

1st. His person. Is there any god in heaven besides thee. Jesus Christ who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person. Jesus Christ perfect in every way, made up of love and beauty. **Christ natural** and **Christ Divine**. He was 100% man, **a mediator who took upon Him, human flesh**, that he might know how to pity us; he knows what it is to be faint, sorrowful, tempted. He knows our frame how weak we are He remembers we are but dust. He knows we are a broken reed bruised, a smouldering flax and week he will not discard us or break us rather he will show love to us and cherish us and strengthen us with tender care. We were bruised reeds before our conversion and also many times after our conversion, but we have

Christ the mediator – He is not like Jobs comforters that have no compassion that cannot feel His loss and suffering- He is full of sympathy and feels what we feel.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Jesus Christ became flesh. John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

2nd. His graces. Christ can be compared to Jacob's ladder which reaches from earth to heaven. Gen 28:12. He is called the '**mighty God,**' Isa. 9:6., "**And in him dwells the fulness of the Godhead,**" Col. 2:9. **He is of the same nature and essence with the Father.** Christ knows our every thought He knows what is in us. He upholds all things by the Word of His power. Heb 1:3 He is Divine He was and is and is to come. He is from eternity and was not just born of the Virgin Mary. **We know Him as,** Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Jesus Christ the Prince of peace is Eternal** - He is God He is to be worshiped. And we see this clearly When God says "*Let all the angels of God worship Him.*" **Consider Christ our Mediator** who is full of grace and truth full of compassion- He looked at the sheep without a shepherd and was moved with pity. He invites all those burdened and heavy laden; come and drink. He never turns any away that come to Him. He is the great physician especially good at binding up broken hearts. He is the only one who had the anointing of the spirit without measure. The Grace in Christ our Lord is higher, than any other servant of God. For it pleased *the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell.* In Him dwells everything All heavenly treasure all fullness. Abraham was great and known for His faith- Moses for His meekness. Paul for His endurance – **But Christ excels them all** and is greater still. **In Christ there is a continuous fullness of grace the Grace in Christ** is a never failing fullness, it never decreases, He never loses even a single drop of His grace and faithfulness and Holiness. With Christ there is no variation He is at the same intensity of light and Glory all the time . "For I *am* the LORD, I do not change. **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.** As Joseph opened the storehouses of Corn in Egypt; Christ is our Joseph that opens the storehouse of grace.

Fasten your hope upon the mediator. And look unto Him "That believing, you may have life through his name." We have Jesus Christ the eternal one written on our hearts. The one who is alive and not dead. **Never forget we have the Eternal one as**

mediator as our middleman between God and us. Many times, we can forget the wonderful comfort and help available for both the believer and also the sinner with regard to redemption- **I read a story about Martin Luther which will encourage us.**

He was a very cheerful man, as a rule; but he had terrible fits of depression. he was at one time so depressed that his friends recommended him to go away for a change of air, to see if he could get relief. he went away; but he came home as miserable as ever; and when he went into the sitting-room, his wise wife Kate, Catherine von Bora, was sitting there, dressed in black, and her children round about her, all in black. "Oh, oh!" said Luther, "who is dead?" "Why," said she, "doctor, have not you heard that God is dead? My husband, Martin Luther, would never be in such a state of mind if he had a living God to trust to." Then he burst into a hearty laugh, and said, "Kate, thou art a wise woman. I have been acting as if God were dead, and I will do so no more. **Go and take off thy black.**" If God be alive, why are we discouraged? If we have a God to look to, why are we cast down? Let us rejoice and be glad together; for God will do all that he has promised.

We have seen just a little of the Person of Christ we next look at the Offices of Christ. The Greatness of Christ, Title upon title is bestowed upon Him. This the vastness of who He is the mediator of the covenant – This is Christ who we serve. So mighty and so immeasurable we couldn't even mention all His greatness.

Prophet. Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear. We see these exact word again in *Acts 3:22. For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET.* Speaking of Christ the Prophet. In the Old testament we have three main offices **Prophet King and Priest.** Jesus Christ is all these in one. **The Prophets would make known Gods Word.** Jesus Christ makes known Gods Word. He has several names, He is called **the counselor.** Isa 9:6 Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance. In Christ are hidden *all the treasures* of wisdom and knowledge. **The messenger of the covenant** Mal3:1. The messenger but also the one who confirmed the covenant with His own blood. **A lamp who enlightens our darkness.** 2 Sam 22:29. A sun and a shield, the Lord will give grace and glory, no good thing will He withhold from the upright. **The Bright and Morning Star.** Rev22:16 Is Jesus Christ who through tender mercy the Daystar from on high has visited us. Light risen upon us who sat in

darkness we do well when we take heed this light that means we hold our minds upon Him.

Not only is the teacher - But He is the one who opens our minds and grants us understanding, *Luke 24:45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.* "The natural man receives not the things of God, neither can he know them." 1Cor 2:14 the natural man has no renewed mind that comes from the Word of God. Man may know many things and excel greatly in worldly wisdom and even know much more than a believer. But He can't see and know the deep things of Christ for He has not been taught of Christ. **He who is taught of Christ sees the secrets of heaven.** Christ gives us a glimpse of the eternal we look not at only what is seen we see afar off we with hope see the future of a better country; heaven where there are delights, where rivers of pleasures flow where the flower of Joy is fully ripe and open.

Christ the teacher is so different from other teachers. For He teaches the heart not just the ear. The teachers who reach only our ear produce only knowledge. But Christ works grace. He gives light and truth. He gives love and life- He doesn't just teach what to believe He shows us how to believe. It is Christ who opens the heart. Remember Lydia when she heard, the Lord opened her heart to believe. **It is Christ who gives us a taste of the Word.** Taste and see that the Lord is good - David says *How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!* It is Christ who makes us taste a richness in the word. He teaches us line upon line and precept upon precept.

We could spend much more time upon this **but (as we draw to a close) Christ also fulfilled the priestly office.** What did He do as a priest for us? He offered Himself the perfect Lamb of God, a sacrifice to satisfy divine Justice and reconcile us to God. And He makes intercession for us always. He always mediates between us such guilty creatures and the Holy God. He will not show wrath to those who believe in Him, who trust in, and who surrender, and prostrate before Him. Who are washed and cleansed in the Blood of Jesus they shall not come into condemnation but have passed from death to life.

But now by the death of Christ, by His blood He sealed the Promises and believers may now claim them. He is now Christ the Mediator- Let us close with a word of prayer.

Dear Lord, we look with great affection, and confidence and gratitude -what words can we express Your greatness? We desire to be ever drawn closer to You through our mediator and saviour and redeemer Jesus Christ. May our hearts be filled with an ever-deepening reverence for You. May our whole lives be full to all the fullness of Christ Jesus.