#### LESSON 2:

# What is the Goal of Our Salvation?

## **Summary**

The goal of human life is bound up with the Covenant of Life God made with Adam—and through him, with his posterity—at creation. This covenant established that man's purpose was to bring glory to God by bearing God's image and enjoying communion with Him. This high stature accentuates the seriousness of the Fall; the covenantal relationship also explains why God would move to save man in what would be codified in the Covenant of Grace.

REQUIRED READINGS:

WCF ch. 4, "Of Creation," WLC 15 & 17, WSC 9-10 WCF 7.1-2, "Of God's Covenant with Man," WLC 20 WLC, WSC 1, "The Chief End of Man"

## How Did God Create Man to Be? (WLC 15, 17, WSC 9-10, WCF 4)

#### Westminster Confession of Faith

## CHAPTER IV - Of Creation

- 1. It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, <sup>(a)</sup> for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, <sup>(b)</sup> in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days; and all very good. <sup>(c)</sup>
- 2. After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female, (d) with reasonable and immortal souls (e), endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after His own image; (f) having the law of God written in their hearts, (g) and power to fulfill it: (h) and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change. (i) Beside this law written in their hearts, they received a command, not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, (i) which while they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures. (k)
- (a) Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 8:6; Heb. 1:2; John 1:2-3; Gen. 1:2; Job 26:13; Job 33:4
- (b) Rom. 1:20; Jer. 10:12; Ps. 104:24; Ps. 33:5-6
- (c) Gen. 1:1-31; Ps. 33:6; Heb. 11:3; Col. 1:16; Acts 17:24; Exod. 20:11
- (d Gen. 1:27
- (e) Gen. 2:7; Eccl. 12:7; Luke 23:43; Matt. 10:28
- (f) Gen. 1:26; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24
- (g) Rom. 2:14-15
- (h) Eccl. 7:29; Gen. 2:17
- (i) Gen. 3:6, 17; [Eccl. 7:29]
- (j) Gen. 2:15-3:24
- (k) Gen. 1:26, 28-30; Ps. 8:6-8

### Westminster Larger Catechism Westminster Shorter Catechism **Question 15 Question 9** Q. What is the work of creation? Q. What is the work of creation? A. The work of creation is that wherein God A. The work of creation is, God's making all did in the beginning, by the word of his things of nothing, by the word of his power, power, make of nothing the world, and all in the space of six days, and all very good. (a) things therein, for himself, within the space of six days, and all very good. (a) (a) Gen. 1, Heb. 11:3 (a) Gen. 1, Heb. 11:3, Prov. 16:4 **Ouestion 17 Question 10** Q. How did God create man? Q. How did God create man? A. After God had made all other creatures, he **A.** God created man male and female, after his created man male and female; (b) formed the own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures. (b) body of the man of the dust of the ground, (c) and the woman of the rib of the man, (d) endued them with living, reasonable, and (b) Gen. 1:26-28, Col. 3:10, Eph. 4:24 immortal souls; (e) made them after his own image, (f) in knowledge, (g) righteousness, and holiness; (h) having the law of God written in their hearts, (i) and power to fulfill it, (i) and dominion over the creatures; (k) vet subject to fall. (1) (b) Gen. 1:27 (c) Gen. 2:7 (d) Gen. 2:22 (e) Gen. 2:7, Job 35:11, Eccl. 12:7, Matt. 10:28, Luke 23:43 (f) Gen. 1:27 (g) Col. 3:10 (h) Eph. 4:24 (i) Rom. 2:14-15 (j) Eccl. 7:29 (k) Gen. 1:28 (l) Gen. 3:6, Eccl. 7:29

## What Relationship Was Man in With God? (WCF 7.1-2, WLC 20)

#### Westminster Confession of Faith

#### CHAPTER VII, Sect. 1 &2 - Of God's Covenant with Man

- 1. The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasonable creatures do owe obedience unto Him as their Creator, yet they could never have any fruition of Him as their blessedness and reward, but by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which He hath been pleased to express by way of covenant. (a)
- 2. The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, (b) wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his posterity, (c) upon condition of perfect and personal obedience. (d)
- (a) Isa. 40:13-17, Job 9:32-33, 1 Sam. 2:25, Ps. 113:5-6, Ps. 100:2-3, Job 22:2-3, Job 35:7-8, Luke 17:10, Acts 17:24-25
- (b) Gal. 3:12
- (c) Rom. 10:5, Rom. 5:12-20
- (d) Gen. 2:17, Gal. 3:10

#### Westminster Larger Catechism

#### **Question 20**

Q. What was the providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created?

**A.** The providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created, was the placing him in paradise, appointing him to dress it, giving him liberty to eat of the fruit of the earth; (a) putting the creatures under his dominion, (b) and ordaining marriage for his help; (c) affording him communion with Himself; (d) instituting the Sabbath; (e) entering into a covenant of life with Him, upon condition of personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience, (f) of which the Tree of Life was a pledge; (g) and forbidding to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, upon the pain of death. (h)

(a) Gen. 2:8,15–16 (e) Gen. 2:3

(b) Gen. 1:28 (f) Gal. 3:12, Rom. 10:5

(c) Gen. 2:18 (g) Gen. 2:9 (d) Gen. 1:26–29, Gen. 3:8 (h) Gen. 2:17

# What is the Chief and Highest End of Man? (WLC 1, WSC 1)

Westminster Larger Catechism	Westminster Shorter Catechism
Question 1	Question 1
Q. What is the chief and highest end of man? A. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, (a) and fully to enjoy Him forever. (b)	<b>Q.</b> What is the chief end of man? <b>A.</b> Man's chief end is to glorify God, <sup>(a)</sup> and to enjoy Him forever. <sup>(b)</sup>
(a) Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 10:31	<sup>(a)</sup> Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 10:31
(b) Ps. 73:24–28; John 17:21–23	(b) Ps. 73:24-28

# **Study Questions**

# Preparation

1. How would you define what a covenant is?

#### Observation

- 2. How does WCF 7.1 describe God's covenants with man?
- 3. What four items do the Confession and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms mention about man's original state? How do these qualities reflect God's image?
- 4. How does the Genesis 1-3 account suggest man was in communion with God? How does WCF 7.2 characterize man's relationship with God before the Fall?
- 5. What does the first question in both the Larger and Shorter Catechism describe man's ultimate purpose as being?

#### Reflection

- 6. People today do not view man as being made in God's image. Has that elevated or lowered man's dignity? Explain.
- 7. How does this understanding of man's purpose compare with that held by people today? How might this be both challenging and attractive to others?