

LESSON 11

CHAPTER 20. “Of the Gospel, and the Extent of Grace Thereof”

Chapter 20 was derived from the Savoy Declaration of 1658 (Congregational English Puritans.) This chapter is not in the Westminster Confession (Presbyterian) from which most of the 1689 is taken via the Savoy. It was inserted to refute Deism (or any type of humanism) and to expand on statements made in earlier chapters.

I. Paragraph 1: The gospel revealed and effectual in OT times

- A. The promise in Gen 3:15 was the first revelation of the “gospel.” (protoevangelicum)
- B. The gospel has been in effect and effectual since the fall of Adam.
- C. It is the means of calling the elect in all ages.

II. Paragraph 2: General revelation is inadequate for salvation

- A. General revelation and human reason are insufficient to discover the gospel.
- B. People cannot be saved by faith in natural revelation (creation and human reasoning.)
- C. The gospel can be discovered only in God’s Word.

III. Paragraph 3: Gospel not available by human reasoning or learning, but only by revelation

- A. Revelation of the Gospel is by God’s sovereign will and good pleasure.
- B. There is nothing we can do to earn, discover, or deserve God’s revelation of the gospel.
- C. The preaching (and spreading) of the gospel has been granted by God to various extents as determined by God’s will.

IV. Paragraph 4: Saving information received by a regenerate heart and mind

- A. As the outward means of calling, the gospel is abundantly sufficient.
- B. Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is prerequisite to effectually receive the gospel.

Questions for discussion:

What is the main thrust of this chapter?

What would it be a warning against?