

A Faith to Live By

An Independent Study of the
Westminster Confession of Faith

How to use this study guide effectively each week:

1. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit would use the week's material to increase your knowledge of God and His Word. (see Psalm 119:1-8)
2. **Read the Confession of Faith** (WCF) sections listed. Read the proof texts too.
3. **Memorize the Scripture** verse(s) listed.
(Sometimes they may not line up with the particular WCF sections, but they all build to give good memory references for the overall chapter.)
4. **Work through the discussion questions.**
It is best to write down your answers.
The questions may sometimes be difficult. Think, pray, ponder. Don't worry if you don't have answers to everything! We will discuss at our monthly meeting.
Our main goal is thoughtfulness on the matters of God's Word, not getting everything right or clear the first time through.
5. **Come to the monthly discussion** prepared to interact with the material.

March

Week 1 (3/6) God's General Decree

- Read: WCF 3.1-3.2
- Memorize: Ephesians 1:4
even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.
- Study questions:
 - Define the word “Decree” as it related to God.

 - To whom is the doctrine of God’s decree a comfort?

 - Use Scripture to prove that “neither is God the author of sin.”

 - What does it mean that violence is not “offered to the will of the creatures”?

 - Read Acts 2:23 and try to explain the last phrase of section 1: “nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.”

 - Write the basic point of section 2 in your own words.

Week 2 (3/13) The Destiny of Men and Angels

- Read: WCF 3.3-3.4

- Memorize: Ephesians 1:5

In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

- Study questions:

- We often hear about “election” in Reformed circles. What words does section 3 use to describe “election” of people unto certain ends?

- What is God’s purpose in election? What does this tell us in turn about His character?

- How can we know that the number of the elect does not change?

- Is it fair for God to predestinate some men and angels unto everlasting life, and foreordain others to everlasting death? Is it fair that these predetermined groups are set and cannot be changed?

Week 3 (3/20) Those Predestinated Unto Life

- Read: WCF 3.5-3.6

- Memorize: Rom. 11:33-34

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"

- Study questions:

- What do you think it means to say that election is according to God's "secret counsel"?

- What two things does the opening sentence of section 6 tell us?

- What is the appointed end/purpose of election?

- What are the appointed means of election?

- What two people feature most prominently in the story of redemption?

- What is the difference between being *chosen* in eternity and being *redeemed* in eternity? Why is it important to note this difference? When was redemption accomplished for God's people?

Week 4 (3/27) Those Foreordained Unto Death, & the Correct Response to Predestination

- Read: WCF 3.7-3.8
- Memorize: Rom. 11:35-36
“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.
- Study questions:
 - Use Scripture to support that it was God’s plan to withhold mercy from some creatures.

- Is God arbitrary in His actions?

- What guidance does the confession offer to help us handle the doctrine of predestination?

- How can the doctrine of election aid a believer’s growth in assurance of faith?

Week 5 (4/3)

- No reading this week.
- Catch up or work ahead on reading!
- Review memorization!

Monthly Discussion: Thursday, April 7 @ 7:00pm