

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.

July

Week 1 (7/16)

- Read: WCF 18.1-2

- Memorize: Matthew 7:21

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

- Study questions:

Section 1

1. What comes to mind when you read the title of this chapter?

2. How might hypocrites and other unregenerate people “vainly deceive themselves with false hope and carnal presumptions”?

3. Who can be assured of their salvation?

Section 2

4. Is assurance just a guess?

5. What is assurance founded upon? (three things)

Week 2 (7/23)

- Read: WCF 18.3

- Memorize: 1 John 5:13

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

- Study questions:

Section 3

1. We have every reason to be confident in our salvation. But what if we aren't?
2. What does it mean that assurance does "not so belong to the essence of faith"?
3. Why might a true believer "wait long and conflict with many difficulties" before they partake in assurance?
4. How should a Christian with a weak assurance pursue a strong one?

Week 3 (7/30)

- Read: WCF 18.4

- Memorize: Jeremiah 32:40

I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.

- Study questions:

Section 4

1. How can assurance be shaken?

2. How can assurance be diminished?

3. How can assurance be intermitted?

4. What comfort is there in this paragraph?

Monthly Discussion: Thursday, August 3 @ 7:00pm