

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 (3/9)

- Read: WCF 32.1

- Memorize: 2 Cor. 5:8

Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

- Study questions:

1. What does Scripture teach about the immediate state of believers after death?

2. How does this doctrine bring comfort to Christians?

3. What does the Bible say about the destiny of the wicked?

4. Why is the doctrine of purgatory inconsistent with Scripture?

Week 2 (3/16)

- Read: WCF 32.2-3

- Memorize: John 5:28-29

Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

- Study questions:

5. What does this passage teach about the continuity and transformation of the resurrected body?

6. How does the resurrection of the body provide hope for believers?

7. Why is it significant that Christ raises both the just and the unjust?

8. What does it mean for believers to have bodies made “conformable to Christ’s glorious body”?

9. How does the certainty of bodily resurrection affect our understanding of suffering and death?

Week 3 (3/23)

- Read: WCF 33.1

- Memorize: Acts 17:31

because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

- Study questions:

10. What does it mean that God has “appointed a day” for judgment?

11. Why is it significant that Christ is the one who will judge the world?

12. How does the reality of final judgment challenge us to live wisely and righteously?

13. What role do our thoughts, words, and deeds play in the final judgment?

14. How does this doctrine give both comfort and warning to believers and unbelievers?

Week 4 (3/30)

- Read: WCF 33.2-3

- Memorize: Matt. 25:46

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

- Study questions:

15. How does the final judgment reveal both God's mercy and His justice?

16. What does this passage teach about the eternal nature of heaven and hell?

17. How does knowing that the final judgment is unknown help prevent complacency in our spiritual lives?

18. How does the doctrine of final judgment provide comfort to believers facing suffering and injustice?

19. How should this doctrine shape our sense of urgency in evangelism and Christian living?

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