**The Doctrine of Christ**

*God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”*

*1 Corinthians 1:28-31*

**The Mediator** (from the Valley of Vision)

Everlasting Creator-Father, I have destroyed myself, my nature is defiled, the powers of my soul are degraded; I am vile, miserable, strengthless, but my hope is in thee. If ever I am saved it will be by goodness undeserved and astonishing, not by mercy alone but by abundant mercy, not by grace but by exceeding riches of grace; And such thou hast revealed, promised, exemplified in thoughts of peace, not of evil. Thou hast devised means to rescue me from sin’s perdition, to restore me to happiness, honour, safety.

I bless thee for the everlasting covenant, for the appointment of a Mediator. I rejoice that he failed not, nor was discouraged, but accomplished the work thou gavest him to do; and said on the cross, ‘It is finished.’ I exult in the thought that thy justice is satisfied, thy truth established, thy law magnified, and a foundation is laid for my hope. I look to a present and personal interest in Christ and say, Surely he has borne my griefs, carried my sorrows, won my peace, healed my soul. Justified by his blood I am saved by his life, Glorying in his cross I bow to his sceptre, having his Spirit I possess his mind. Lord, grant that my religion may not be occasional and partial, but universal, influential, effective, and may I always continue in thy words as well as thy works, so that I may reach my end in peace.

**Introduction:**

**12. Q.** Since, according to God's righteous judgment we deserve temporal and eternal punishment, how can we escape this punishment and be again received into favor?

**A.** God demands that His justice be satisfied. Therefore full payment must be made either by ourselves or by another.

1. **Jesus is the perfect “mediator” between God and man.** 
   1. **Job 9:32-35**
      * + 1. **Isaiah 55:8-9**
          2. **Isaiah 59:2**
          3. **Psalm 24**

**WCOF 8.1** It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Savior of his church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world: unto whom he did from all eternity give a people, to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

**Calvin on Christ the Mediator**

“His task was to restore us to God’s grace as to make the children of men, children of God; the heirs of hell, the heirs of the heavenly kingdom. Who could have done this had not the self-same Son of God become the Son of man, and had not so taken what was ours as to impart what was his to us, and to make what was his by nature ours by grace.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

“For the same reason it was also imperative that he who was to become our Redeemer be true God and true man. It was his task to swallow up death. Who but the Life could do this? It was his task to conquer sin. Who but very Righteousness could do this? It was his task to rout the powers of world and air. Who but a power higher than world and air could do this? Now where does life or righteousness, or lordship and authority of heaven lie but with God alone? Therefore our most merciful God, when he willed that we be redeemed, made himself our Redeemer in the person of the only begotten Son.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

“In short, since neither as God alone could he feel death, nor as man alone could he overcome it, he coupled human nature with divine that to atone for sin he might submit the weakness of the one to death; and that, wrestling with death by the power of the other nature, he might win victory for us. Those who despoil Christ of either his divinity or his humanity diminish his majesty and glory, or obscure his goodness.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

* 1. The work of the mediator is to satisfy God’s wrath through offering himself as a propitiation for sin.

“In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe! This gift of love and righteousness,

Scorned by the ones He came to save. **Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied**; For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—Here in the death of Christ I live.”

**Isaiah 53:4-5**

**John 3:14-17**

**1 John 1:8-2:2**

1. How the two natures make one person.

**WCOF 8.2** The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fulness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.

* 1. The first thing we must point out is that Christ did not begin to exist at his birth as a man.
     1. The Son of God is co-eternal with the Father.
     2. Arius: “There was a time when Christ was not” NO!!!
     3. John 1
     4. John 17:5, 24

1. John T. McNeill, trans., *Calvin: Institutes of the Christian Religion* (2 vols.; Westminster John Knox Press, 1960), 465. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid., 466. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ibid., 466. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)