

THE 1689 BAPTIST  
CONFESSION OF FAITH  
IN MODERN ENGLISH



**Founders Press**

Cape Coral, Florida

Published by  
Founders Press

P.O. Box 150931 • Cape Coral, FL 33915  
Phone (239) 772-1400 • Fax: (239) 772-1140  
Electronic Mail: [founders@founders.org](mailto:founders@founders.org)  
Website: <http://www.founders.org>

©2012, 2017 Founders Press

Originally published as *Confessing the Faith:  
The 1689 Baptist Confession for the 21st Century*

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 978-1-943539-04-8

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of the publisher, except as provided by USA copyright law.

# CONTENTS

Foreword . . . . .	5
Introduction . . . . .	7
1. The Holy Scriptures. . . . .	11
2. God and the Holy Trinity . . . . .	14
3. God's Decree . . . . .	16
4. Creation . . . . .	18
5. Divine Providence . . . . .	19
6. The Fall of Mankind, and Sin and Its Punishment . . . . .	21
7. God's Covenant . . . . .	22
8. Christ the Mediator . . . . .	23
9. Free Will . . . . .	26
10. Effectual Calling . . . . .	27
11. Justification . . . . .	29
12. Adoption . . . . .	30
13. Sanctification . . . . .	31
14. Saving Faith . . . . .	32
15. Repentance to Life and Salvation . . . . .	33
16. Good Works . . . . .	34
17. Perseverance of the Saints . . . . .	36
18. Assurance of Grace and Salvation . . . . .	38
19. The Law of God . . . . .	39
20. The Gospel and the Extent of Its Grace . . . . .	41
21. Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience . . . . .	43
22. Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day . . . . .	44
23. Lawful Oaths and Vows . . . . .	46

24.	Civil Government . . . . .	47
25.	Marriage . . . . .	48
26.	The Church . . . . .	49
27.	Communion of the Saints . . . . .	53
28.	Baptism and the Lord's Supper . . . . .	54
29.	Baptism . . . . .	55
30.	The Lord's Supper . . . . .	55
31.	The State of Humanity after Death and the Resurrection of the Dead . . . . .	58
32.	The Last Judgment . . . . .	59

## III GOD'S DECREE

3:1 From all eternity God decreed everything that occurs, without reference to anything outside Himself.<sup>1</sup> He did this by the perfectly wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably. Yet God did this in such a way that He is neither the author of sin nor has fellowship with any in their sin.<sup>2</sup> This decree does not violate the will of the creature or take away the free working or contingency of second causes. On the contrary, these are established by God's decree.<sup>3</sup> In this decree God's wisdom is displayed in directing all things, and His power and faithfulness are demonstrated in accomplishing His decree.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Isaiah 46:10; Ephesians 1:11; Hebrews 6:17; Romans 9:15, 18. <sup>2</sup>James 1:13; 1 John 1:5. <sup>3</sup>Acts 4:27, 28; John 19:11. <sup>4</sup>Numbers 23:19; Ephesians 1:3–5.

3:2 God knows everything that could happen under any given conditions.<sup>5</sup> However, His decree of anything is not based on foreseeing it in the future or foreseeing that it would occur under such conditions.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Acts 15:18. <sup>6</sup>Romans 9:11, 13, 16, 18.

3:3 By God's decree, and for the demonstration of His glory, some human beings and angels are predestined (or foreordained) to eternal life through Jesus Christ,<sup>7</sup> to the praise of His glorious grace.<sup>8</sup> Others are left to live in their sin, leading to their just condemnation, to the praise of His glorious justice.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup>1 Timothy 5:21; Matthew 25:34. <sup>8</sup>Ephesians 1:5, 6. <sup>9</sup>Romans 9:22, 23; Jude 4.

3:4 These predestined and foreordained angels and people are individually and unchangeably designated, and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or decreased.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup>2 Timothy 2:19; John 13:18.

3:5 Those people who are predestined to life were chosen by God before the foundation of the world, according to His eternal and unchangeable purpose and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will. He chose them in Christ for eternal glory, purely as a result of His free grace and love,<sup>11</sup> without anything else about them serving as a condition or cause moving Him to do so.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup>Ephesians 1:4, 9, 11; Romans 8:30; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9.

<sup>12</sup>Romans 9:13, 16; Ephesians 2:5, 12.

3:6 Just as God has appointed the elect to glory, so He has by the eternal and completely free purpose of His will foreordained all the means.<sup>13</sup> Therefore, those who are elected, being fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ<sup>14</sup> and effectually called to faith in Christ by His Spirit working at the appropriate time. They are justified, adopted, sanctified,<sup>15</sup> and kept by His power through faith to salvation.<sup>16</sup> None but the elect are redeemed by Christ, or effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>13</sup>1 Peter 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:13. <sup>14</sup>1 Thessalonians 5:9, 10. <sup>15</sup>Romans

8:30; 2 Thessalonians 2:13. <sup>16</sup>1 Peter 1:5. <sup>17</sup>John 10:26; 17:9; 6:64.

3:7 The doctrine of the high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care so that those heeding the will of God revealed in His Word and obeying Him may be assured of their eternal election by the certainty of their effectual calling.<sup>18</sup> In this way this doctrine will give reasons for praise,<sup>19</sup> reverence, and admiration of God, as well as humility,<sup>20</sup> diligence and rich comfort to all who sincerely obey the gospel.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>18</sup>1 Thessalonians 1:4, 5; 2 Peter 1:10. <sup>19</sup>Ephesians 1:6; Romans 11:33.

<sup>20</sup>Romans 11:5, 6, 20. <sup>21</sup>Luke 10:20.