

Emmaus Essentials  
The London Baptist Confession of 1689  
Chapter 20: Of the Gospel, and of the Extent of the Grace Thereof  
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Chapter Outline  
Taken from *ST 535 Baptist Symbolics Chapter Outlines* by Dr. Renihan

## Introduction

### I. The Revelation of the Gospel - Para 1

The covenant of works being broken by sin, and made unprofitable unto life, God was pleased to give forth the promise of Christ, the seed of the woman, as the means of calling the elect, and begetting in them faith and repentance; in this promise the gospel, as to the substance of it, was revealed, and [is] therein effectual for the conversion and salvation of sinners.  
( Genesis 3:15; Revelation 13:8 )

- A. The Historical Cause: the Fall of man
  - 1. The Covenant of Works was broken
  - 2. Men could not earn salvation (life)
- B. God's sovereign pleasure: found in a *promise*
  - 1. He was pleased to give the first promise of the Gospel: Gen. 3:15
  - 2. The purpose of this was to call the elect and beget in them faith and repentance
    - a) Genuine offer of the gospel
- C. This promise revealed the Gospel and as such was effectual for conversion and salvation

*"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."* (Genesis 3:15, ESV)

*"and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain."* (Revelation 13:8, ESV)

### II. The Gospel and Special Revelation - Para 2

This promise of Christ, and salvation by him, is revealed only by the Word of God; neither do the works of creation or providence, with the light of nature, make discovery of Christ, or of grace by him, so much as in a general or obscure way; much less that men destitute of the revelation of Him by the promise or gospel, should be enabled thereby to attain saving faith or repentance.  
( Romans 1:17; Romans 10:14,15,17; Proverbs 29:18; Isaiah 25:7; Isaiah 60:2, 3 )

- A. The promise is revealed ONLY in the Word
- B. The inadequacy of General Revelation
  - 1. Creation is insufficient to reveal the gospel

2. Likewise Providence
3. or the Light of Nature
4. Not even in a general or obscure way

C. Even less can any one without special revelation be saved

*"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (Romans 1:17, ESV)*

*"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" (Romans 10:14, ESV)*

*"And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (Romans 10:15, ESV)*

*"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17, ESV)*

*"Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law." (Proverbs 29:18, ESV)*

*"And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations." (Isaiah 25:7, ESV)*

*"For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you." (Isaiah 60:2, ESV)*

*"And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising." (Isaiah 60:3, ESV)*

### **III. The Sovereignty of God in the Spread of the Gospel - Para 3**

The revelation of the gospel unto sinners, made in divers times and by sundry parts, with the addition of promises and precepts for the obedience required therein, as to the nations and persons to whom it is granted, is merely of the sovereign will and good pleasure of God; not being annexed by virtue of any promise to the due improvement of men's natural abilities, by virtue of common light received without it, which none ever did make, or can do so; and therefore in all ages, the preaching of the gospel has been granted unto persons and nations, as to the extent or straitening of it, in great variety, according to the counsel of the will of God. ( Psalms 147:20; Acts 16:7; Romans 1:18-32 )

- A. Special revelation depends on the sovereignty of God
- B. It does not come as a result of the "good" that might be present in a society
- C. The spread of the gospel must therefore be traced to the sovereignty of God

*"He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his rules. Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 147:20, ESV)*

*"And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them." (Acts 16:7, ESV)*

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.” (Romans 1:18–32, ESV)*

#### **IV. Word and Spirit - Para 4**

4. Although the gospel be the only outward means of revealing Christ and saving grace, and is, as such, abundantly sufficient thereunto; yet that men who are dead in trespasses may be born again, quickened or regenerated, there is moreover necessary an effectual insuperable work of the Holy Spirit upon the whole soul, for the producing in them a new spiritual life; without which no other means will effect their conversion unto God.

( Psalms 110:3; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 1:19, 20; John 6:44; 2 Corinthians 4:4, 6 )

- A. The Gospel is the sufficient outward means of revealing Christ and Grace
- B. But in order for salvation to come to men:
  - 1. The work of the Spirit is a necessity
  - 2. Without it, there will be no conversion to God

*“Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.” (Psalm 110:3, ESV)*

*“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14, ESV)*

*“and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might” (Ephesians 1:19, ESV)*

*“that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,” (Ephesians 1:20, ESV)*

*"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day." (John 6:44, ESV)*

*"In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." (2 Corinthians 4:4, ESV)*

*"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6, ESV)*

## **Conclusion**