

# To Glorify and Enjoy God

## LESSON 1: THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE WESTMINSTER STANDARDS<sup>1</sup>

### Intro:

BIG IDEA: \_\_\_\_\_ churches need a \_\_\_\_\_ to clearly declare the faith.

The Standards include: *The Westminster Confession*, the *Larger* and *Shorter Catechisms* and the *Directory of Public Worship*.

- Written by both \_\_\_\_\_ (divines) and \_\_\_\_\_.
- July 1, 1643: First meeting at \_\_\_\_\_ Abbey in London.
- There was a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ Urgency behind it.

*The Westminster Standards* do not seem to be highly reactionary documents, but seek to comfort and edify God's people by gospel doctrine in the midst of unstable times.

- Scotland and \_\_\_\_\_ became one kingdom in 1707 with the *Treaty of Union*.
- United by the same \_\_\_\_\_ in 1603 (James) but separate \_\_\_\_\_.

### Scotland:

- The \_\_\_\_\_ church had been independent of the \_\_\_\_\_ Church.
- There was a more \_\_\_\_\_ church, at times at odds with the monarchy.
- The Reformation was begun by \_\_\_\_\_; a student of Luther & Melancthon.
- The strongest influence was that of \_\_\_\_\_ who studied in \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Regulative Principle was at work: The church should be regulated by \_\_\_\_\_.

**England:** the story twists among a number of kings and queens.

“In England, the Reformation was begun, conducted and stopped, almost entirely according to the pleasure of the reigning sovereign. In Scotland, it was begun and carried forward, and completed, in spite of the determined opposition of the sovereign. In England, therefore, the will of the monarch was an essential element from the first, and continued to be so through the course of the Reformation; and the Church of England was accordingly based upon, and pervaded by, the evil influence of the Erastian principle, the sovereign being recognized as the supreme judge in causes ecclesiastical as well as in causes civil.” **Robert Shaw**<sup>2</sup>

### Henry VIII:

- Led the church based on his desire for an \_\_\_\_\_ & his fickle love for \_\_\_\_\_.
- His \_\_\_\_\_ prompted the break with Rome, rather than a theological difference.

<sup>1</sup> Taken largely from Sinclair Ferguson's first lecture in the WTS course on the Westminster Confession.

<sup>2</sup> Shaw, Robert. *An Exposition of the Westminster Confession of Faith*. Scotland, Christian Focus. 1992, pp. xxiii.

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

- The \_\_\_\_\_ acted as the Church's guardian and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Taking the throne, 17 year-old Henry married to his \_\_\_\_\_ Arthur's widow Catherine.

### Edward VI (son thru Jane Seymour)

- He was open to men of biblical counsel, and studied the Scriptures.
- There was rapid advance in \_\_\_\_\_, discipline & public \_\_\_\_\_ during his reign.
- Attempts to change \_\_\_\_\_ were blocked by Parliament.
- He died in \_\_\_\_\_ after a 6 year reign.

### Mary I

- She was the only child of Henry's first wife, Catherine of Aragon.
- A brief and \_\_\_\_\_ return to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Many, like \_\_\_\_\_ were martyred, and many others fled for the continent.
- Her reign would last only \_\_\_\_\_ years.

### Elizabeth I

- Rose to power in 1558.
- The daughter of Anne Boleyn, she was sent away after her mother was \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Act of Supremacy** (1558): monarch was the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Henry's **Act of Supremacy (1534)** had been repealed by Mary.
- **Act of Uniformity** (1558): all public worship \_\_\_\_\_ to the *Book of Common Prayer*.

### The Thirty-Nine Articles (1563)

- Generally Reformed in doctrine, but not as detailed as the Scottish Confession.
- Church leadership (the \_\_\_\_\_) continually blocked efforts to bring church life into agreement with its doctrine.
- **Vestiarian Controversy**: uniformity of worship, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Called \_\_\_\_\_ (term of abuse- "you are far too precise") or \_\_\_\_\_.

Thomas Cartwright (1570) professor at Cambridge gave a series of lectures that the NT form of church government was Presbyterian, and was dismissed by the Archbishop.

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

### The Puritans

- They began to look inward instead of to the \_\_\_\_\_.
- They began to hold meetings for \_\_\_\_\_ (exposition of Scripture).
- Puritans remained to \_\_\_\_\_ the church by this preaching.
- Formed communities of lively \_\_\_\_\_ within the church.
- They did not \_\_\_\_\_ but preached the \_\_\_\_\_ to uproot and plant.

Robert Brown- *Reformation Without Tarrying for Any*. The other group left the church because there was no freedom to follow Scripture.

### King James (1603)

- James I (England) and James VI (Scotland) came to power.
- In 1581 He signed the \_\_\_\_\_ Confession favoring the \_\_\_\_\_ position.
- The **Millenary Petition**, signed by 1,000 clerics listed Reformed parties grievances.
- **The Hampton Court Conference** was held in 1604 as a result.
- This produced, eventually, the KJV in 1611.
- *The Book of Sports* (1618) gave permission for Sunday \_\_\_\_\_.

### Charles I (son of James)

- Born in \_\_\_\_\_, he was raised in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Affirmed the Divine \_\_\_\_\_ of Kings.
- A war with \_\_\_\_\_ was a financial disaster.
- He wanted Parliament to raise taxes to pay for this. They refused custom duties.
- The 1625 Parliament was significant in the relationship of the Crown & the Commons.
- Due to Buckingham's incompetence they were at war with \_\_\_\_\_.
- Charles tried to take out a \_\_\_\_\_ to pay for this war, and was again \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1628- **The Petition of Right** w/4 demands to safeguard the power of Parliament.
- 1. No \_\_\_\_\_ w/out the permission of \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. No \_\_\_\_\_ w/out due cause.
- 3. No \_\_\_\_\_ of soldiers w/out consent.
- 4. No \_\_\_\_\_ law imposed in time of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1629 called the 4<sup>th</sup> Parliament. \_\_\_\_\_ had been assassinated.

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

- Charles was \_\_\_\_\_ by the Parliament.
- He tried to rule the country w/out the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1634: *Ship-Money Tax* was a tax on \_\_\_\_\_ for being \_\_\_\_\_.
- Imposed Archbishop Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ upon the \_\_\_\_\_ church in 1637.
- The Scots signed the **National Covenant** in February 1638 in response.
- They pledged themselves to the \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ of the Reformed Church.
- To defending their right to rule in the church in accordance with Scripture.
- They conceived of themselves as a \_\_\_\_\_ people (parallel to Israel) applying the civil portions of the OT law to themselves.
- Charles responded by suspending Parliament and making such assembling illegal.
- He marched north into Scotland in \_\_\_\_\_.
- He summoned his 5<sup>th</sup> Parliament in 1640 to raise money, as always.
- Soon a Scottish army moved south and defeated Charles' army at \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1639: **The Grand Remonstrance** set out Parliament's judgments against Charles.
- A rebellion in \_\_\_\_\_ broke out; they feared giving him money lest he fight them.
- Feared his queen, Henrietta, would be impeached for her treasonous Catholicism. She left for Holland with the crown jewels in her bag to raise funds for the royalist cause.
- The Parliamentary army defeated Charles' army at \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1644: The Scots marched south to forge a covenantal union between the nations.
- **Battle of Naseby** (1645) \_\_\_\_\_ defeated the Royal Army.
- 1646: Charles was forced to flee Oxford to Newark to negotiate a deal with the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1647: Charles was arrested and held in \_\_\_\_\_ arrest.
- 1648: Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ ended the "Second" Civil War.
- January 20, 1649 Charles was found guilty of high \_\_\_\_\_ & executed on January 30.

### The Assembly Itself:

- The Assembly was convened on July 1, \_\_\_\_\_ holding regular meetings until Feb. 22, \_\_\_\_\_.
- It would meet \_\_\_\_\_ times over its 5 year existence.
- Comprised mostly of \_\_\_\_\_, most of whom had been originally ordained as Episcopalians.

## To Glorify and Enjoy God

- At first there were 5 \_\_\_\_\_ (Congregationalists) (Goodwin, Burroughs) but \_\_\_\_\_ by the end.
- Two held to “Erastian principles” and caused a great deal of conflict on \_\_\_\_\_.
- There were 6 \_\_\_\_\_ including Baille, Samuel Rutherford and Gillespie.
- The Presbyterians and Independents fought about \_\_\_\_\_ as well.
- Those 5 Independents prevented a \_\_\_\_\_ ecclesiastical structure.
- December 3, 1646: they presented the initial version; recommitted for proof texts.
- Assembly presented the Confession back to the Parliament on April 29, 1647.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Catechism was presented to Parliament on November 5, 1647.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ Catechism was presented to them on April 14, 1648.

### **Conclusion:**