

Outline of Mr. Spurgeon's Creed.

MANY strange rumors having been put into circulation respecting the doctrines preached by Mr. Spurgeon, before he had been in London a year, it was thought desirable to publish a new edition of that most estimable summary of doctrine, the Baptist Confession of Faith, as drawn up and signed by thirty-seven Baptist ministers, in the year 1689. This edition, revised by Mr. Spurgeon, who added to it a preface, was published in the autumn of 1855. The articles are thirty-two in number, of which the following is an outline, little more than the names of the successive articles being here given, the reader being referred to the work itself for further details.

- I. That the *Holy Scripture* is the only sufficient rule of faith.
- II. That God is *one*, consisting of *three* subsistences—the Father, the Word, and Holy Spirit.
- III. That God hath *decreed all things*. That some men and angels are predestinated to eternal life; and others being left to act in their sin to their just condemnation.
- IV. That God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, did *create* the world in six days.
- V. That God, in his *providence*, doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures and things.

- VI. That man was created upright; that by sin he *fell* from original righteousness, and his sin is imputed to all mankind.
- VII. That God made a *covenant of grace*, offering life and salvation by that covenant through Jesus Christ.
- VIII. That the Lord Jesus is ordained the *Mediator* between God and man.
- IX. That God hath indued the *will of man* with natural liberty, and power of acting upon choice: that is, *free-will*.
- X. That those whom God hath predestinated unto life, he is pleased in his own time *effectually to call* by his Word and Spirit, out of a state of sin and death, to grace and salvation. Infants that die in infancy are saved by Christ, through the Spirit.
- XI. Those whom God calleth he *justifieth*, by pardoning their sins, and accepting them as righteous.
- XII. That all those that are justified, God makes them partakers of the grace of *adoption*.
- XIII. That those who are called, and regenerate, through the death of Christ, are also *sanctified*.
- XIV. That the *faith* whereby the elect are enabled to believe for *salvation*, is the work of the Spirit of Christ.
- XV. That such of the elect as live in sin for many years, God in their effectual calling, giveth them *repentance unto life and salvation*.
- XVI. That *good works* are only such as God hath commanded, such as are the fruits of a lively faith; that our best works can not merit the pardon of sin.

- XVII. That those whom God hath called, and sanctified, can neither totally nor finally fall from grace, but shall *persevere therein to the end.*
- XVIII. That such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, may in this life be certainly *assured* that they are in a state of grace and salvation.
- XIX. That God gave to Adam a *law of obedience* ; that the *moral law* given on Sinai doth for ever bind all, as well justified persons as others to obedience thereof.
- XX. That the covenant of works being broken by sin, God was pleased to give the promise of Christ and salvation by him, which is revealed only in the Word of God. That Christ is revealed in the *gospel*, which revelation *is sufficient to the saving of all men.*
- XXI. That *Christian liberty* consists in freedom from the guilt of sin, and from the yoke and curse of the law. That God hath left the conscience free from the doctrines and commandments of men.
- XXII. That God is to be *worshipped* ; that religious worship is to be given to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and to him alone. That *religious worship* is required of all ; and that the *Sabbath be kept holy* unto the Lord.
- XXIII. That a *lawful oath* is a part of religious worship, and should be taken with holy fear and reverence ; that *vows* be made to God alone, and performed sacredly.
- XXIV. That the *civil magistrate* is set over the people to promote the glory of God and the public good, by maintaining justice and peace. That we should pray for kings and all that are in authority.

- XXV. That *marriage* is to be between one man and one woman; that all people with sound judgment may marry, but within the degrees of affinity.
- XXVI. That *the Church* consists of the whole number of the elect throughout the world professing the faith of the gospel, and obedience unto God by Christ; the Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the Church; that the Pope of Rome is anti-christ; that church members are saints by calling; that pastors and other gifted persons may preach; that believers are bound to join particular churches. Provision is also made for offenses, difficulties, and differences.
- XXVII. That all *saints* united to Jesus Christ should have *fellowship with him* and with each other.
- XXVIII. That *baptism* and the *Lord's Supper* are positive ordinances to be continued to the end of time.
- XXIX. That *baptism* is an ordinance of the New Testament, a sign of the believer's fellowship with Christ; that those only are proper subjects for baptism who profess repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; that immersion or dipping in water is necessary to the due administration of this ordinance.
- XXX. That the *Supper of the Lord* is to be observed to the end of the world, as a remembrance of the sacrifice and death of Christ, and for the confirmation and spiritual nourishment of believers. That ignorant and ungodly persons may not partake of those holy mysteries.

- XXXI.** That the bodies of men after death return to dust, and their souls have an immortal subsistence; the righteous are admitted into heaven, the wicked are cast into hell. That all the *dead shall be raised* up with the self-same bodies at the last day, and shall be united to their souls for ever.
- XXXII.** That at the *last judgment*, all the world shall be judged by Jesus Christ. That the day of judgment shall be unknown to men till it shall arrive, that all may be constantly prepared for the coming of the Lord.