

**The 1689 Confession of Faith; Chapter 2 – “Of God and the Holy Trinity”,
Message # 26 – “God is Most Free”, Presented in the Adult Sunday School Class,
by Pastor Paul Rendall on February 26th, 2017.**

Chapter 2 – Of God and the Holy Trinity, Paragraph 1 -

The Lord our God is but (a)one only living and true God; whose (b)subsistence is in and of Himself, (c)infinite in being and perfection; whose essence cannot be comprehended by any but Himself; (d)a most pure spirit, (e) invisible, without body, parts, or passions, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; who is (f)immutable, (g)immense, (h)eternal, incomprehensible, (i)almighty, every way infinite, (k)most holy, most wise, most free, most absolute; (l)working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, (m)for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; (n)the rewarder of them that diligently seek him, and withal most just (o)and terrible in his judgments, (p)hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the (q)guilty.

a 1st Corinthians 8: 4 and 6; Deuteronomy 6: 4; b Jeremiah 10: 10; Isa 48: 12; c Exodus 3: 14; d John 4: 24; e 1st Timothy 1: 17; Deut. 4: 15-16; f Malachi 3:6; g 1st Kings 8: 27; Jeremiah 23: 23; h Psalm 90: 2; j Genesis 17: 1; k Isa 6: 3; l Psalm 115: 3; Isa 46: 10; m Pro 16: 4; Rom 11: 36; n Exodus 34: 6-7; Hebrews 11:6; o Nehemiah 9: 32-33; p Psalm 5: 5-6; q Exodus 34:7; Nahum 1: 2-3

1. The Lord is most Free

Psalm 115: 1-18 – “Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth. Why should the Gentiles say, "So where is their God?" But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; they have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them. O Israel, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield. You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield. The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless those who fear the Lord, Both small and great. May the Lord give you increase more and more, you and your children. May you be blessed by the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; But the earth He has given to the children of men. The dead do not praise the Lord, Nor any who go down into silence. But we will bless the Lord From this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!”

The verse that we want to focus on, and draw from the rest of the Psalm, to establish the truth that we are studying, is verse 3 – Our God is in heaven ; He does whatever He pleases. I think that there are many people in the world who believe in God in a general sense. But when they think of Him they think that somehow He is bound to their own feeble conception of Him. This verse refutes that conception. It is evident that He is most free – He does whatever He pleases. Still many people foolishly think, that if there is a God, He is not free to do as He pleases; that somehow He can be pulled down to their level to be judged by them. They think this way: He may have made the world and all things in it, but He does not really actively govern it, and He only intervenes in people's lives to help them in extremely difficult situations. The rest of their life, they think, can be lived doing what pleases them, and so they really do not ponder God's continual activities of upholding everything that He has created, nor do they think that He has any expectations of them as people. They do not believe that He is a Judge of their hearts or their behavior.

But we can see from this Psalm that we should give glory to God because He is free to do whatever He pleases. He is free because He has all power, all authority, and He can, and He will bring to pass whatsoever will bring Him the most glory. In verse 1 it says that we should give glory to Him, because of His mercy, and because of His truth. Why do you think that it is worded in this way? It is worded in this way because if anyone is ever saved from their sins of having other gods before God, it only takes place because of His showing them mercy, and revealing to them the truths that will lead them to salvation. You can see that the Gentiles, mentioned in verse 2 are questioning where the God of the Jews is. They

cannot see Him. Their God was not made out of silver or gold or the work of men's hands. Their idols have physical limbs and features, but they have no life to be able to move them or to speak or to smell. Everyone who makes them are like them. (verse 8) So is everyone who trusts in them. They have no spiritual life in them; they are dead in their trespasses and sins. They have no power to deliver from sin or from God's wrath.

Conclusion: The Lord is perfectly free to do as He pleases with all that He has created and especially all the people whom He has created in His own image and likeness. If we will remember that He is a righteous God who does everything according to His own holy and wise purposes, we will be able to glory in the truth that He is free.

Even so, all who were true Israelites were told in this Psalm that they ought to trust in the Lord, for He is their help and their shield. And we, as Christians ought to receive this same truth to ourselves. We ought to be thankful that God chose to show us mercy to cause us to come to know Him, by revealing Himself to us according to His truth. He truly is able to give us help in times of trouble. He really is able to protect you from all evil and keep your soul.

The Lord really is free to be mindful of us. He has no distractions or problems or cares that would hinder Him from helping You. In verse 12 it says – “The Lord has been mindful of us.” In other words, He thinks upon us and our whole life and situation and studies to do us good. This ought to be a very comforting truth for the Christian; that God is mindful of us and He will bless us, because He is free, in accordance with His purpose, to do so. Our only responsibility is to fear Him, whether we are small or whether we are great.

Knowing that God is free to be mindful of His people, and to bless His people, knowing that nothing is too difficult for Him and that no problem is too great for Him, we should learn then to pray for one another that the Lord would bless and prosper us as a church; that since He is free, that He would be pleased to give us increase. The heavens are the Lord's. He rules over all things on earth, but He has freely chosen to give the earth to the children of men. We should also be mindful of Him, to praise Him and to bless Him while we have life and breath, because praise is beautiful way of glorifying Him while you live; while you have your body. Praise glorifies Him. And if you know the Lord, it ought to be a matter of joyous expectation to you, that you will be blessing the Lord from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!