

WCF 18 - Of the Assurance of Grace and of Salvation

As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.
~ Psalm 17:15 ~

Introductory Notes

I. Sincerity

A. The Reality of Hypocrisy and Self-Deceit in Unbelievers

B. The Possibility of Persuasion and Assurance for True Believers

II. Certainty

A. What?

B. Upon What?

1. Promise of the Word

2. Evidence of Grace

3. Work of the Spirit

a. The Spirit as Witness

b. The Spirit as Earnest

c. The Spirit as Seal

C. What To Do?

III. Difficulty

A. Not of the Essence of Faith

B. Is Often Obtained only after struggle

1. It is ordinary, in the sense that it does not require extraordinary revelation

2. It is ordinary in the sense that it may be attained through the regular means of grace

3. It is ordinary in the sense that it is a grace and a duty

IV. Variability

A. Believers differ in diligence

B. Believers differ in experience

C. Believers differ in temptations

D. Believers differ in divine dealings

E. Believers do not differ in security

“Since the true believer may fall into sin, but may never fall totally from grace, it is self-evident...that he cannot lose the principle from which it springs; and that hence, through the blessing of God upon the diligent use of the appropriate means, it may be strengthened when weakened and recovered when lost.”

~A. A. Hodge~