Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation: Its Nature & Foundation

The Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 18

I. WCF 18.1: False and True Assurance

A. False Assurance:

i. Why start here? To address _____ of assurance.

ii. This is what unbelievers and _____ may have (Matt 7:21–23).

B. True Assurance:

i. Those who truly believe in Jesus may have true and _____ assurance.

1. Assurance is a _____ reality: Assurance that we're currently saved

2. It's a _____ reality: Assurance that we will be in heaven forever.

3. It's a _____ reality: Assurance that God predestined us to be saved.

ii. Like our doctrine of perseverance, our doctrine of assurance is very unique.

iii. Biblical evidence: Phil 1:6; 1 John 5:13; 1 John 3:14; Heb 6:11; Heb 10:22.

II. WCF 18.2: The Nature of True Assurance

A. A bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded on a fallible hope.

i. Assurance isn't a matter of guesswork, _____, or likelihood.

ii. This section is responding to the _____ view of assurance.

B. But true assurance is infallible because of its threefold foundation.

i. God's Word is _____, & so is assurance if it's grounded in God's Word.

ii. If there's evidence of being _____ by God, then you have been forgiven.

iii. The _____ presence in our lives testifies to us that we are true believers.

iv. The 3 sources of assurances are _____ and cyclical.

III. Practical Takeaways: The doctrine of assurance of salvation…

A. Delivers us from doubt and fear of condemnation.

B. Dispenses peace with God and joy in the Holy Spirit.

C. Drives us to give God thanks and glory.

Westminster Confession of Faith
Chapter 18.1–2: *Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation*

1. Although hypocrites and other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God, and state of salvation (which hope of theirs shall perish): yet those who truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before him, may, in this life, be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed.

2. This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope; but an infallible assurance of faith founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation, the inward evidence of those graces to which these promises are made, the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God, which Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance, by which we are sealed to the day of redemption.