

VI. SUBJECTIVE CHRISTOLOGY...SOTERIOLOGY

A. Introductory Notes

1. The Relevant Portions of the Symbols

The following chapters of the Confession are immediately related to this discussion. The numbers vary in some Confessional printings and I have given the titles which are the same in all.

Of Free Will

Of Effectual Calling

Justification

Adoption

Sanctification

Saving Faith

Likewise the Catechism questions are more geared to the total discussion than to the individual confessional segments. The following are most direct:

L.C. 57-81

S.C. 29-36

2. Comment on the Wide Scope of the Material

In Soteriology we begin to talk more immediately of the things that are close to our world. It is our salvation that is under discussion. We know that we did not work it ourselves and all the steps in its operation interest us. Christ is the Mediator and in some way He is the activating force in all these affairs. Consequently it is His work that is under discussion and not just the facts of His Being or existence. This brings us into a much wider area...one in which, in fact, we must guard ourselves against too great speculation. Just getting a grip on the basic Biblical-Confessional materials is no easy task and yet due to the force this subject brings to our lives it is necessary we attempt to do so.

3. Summary of the Materials

In a very brief form we note that the symbols teach, regarding soteriology that:

We are saved through an application of the merits of Christ resulting in a justified state of sonship perpetrated forensically by God with a sealing of the Spirit unto life eternal.

4. Preliminary Ideas

a. Our need: