

Belgic Confession, Article 17, “The Restoration of Mankind”

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 3

Lesson Aim	To understand two things: first, how man will not seek God, and second, that after the fall only God will seek man through Christ.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Article 17 and Genesis chapter 3 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>How do many Christians today think about salvation? They think that God offers salvation to everyone and that people just need to take the gift of salvation that is offered.</p> <p>The false view of salvation that many Christians have is based on a misinterpretation of John 3:16. What is the correct interpretation? The “world” that God loves by giving his Son is restricted to God’s elect from every tribe, tongue and nation. God’s love and Christ’s death is limited to God’s chosen children.</p> <p>What do the Scriptures say about people seeking God? Paul says in Romans 3:11 that “no one seeks for God” (see also Psalms 14 and 53).</p> <p>Why is it that “no one seeks for God?” According to Genesis chapter 3, mankind has fallen into sin. Therefore, because of this sin, people are wicked and hate God (see Genesis 6:5, 8:21; Jeremiah 17:9 and Romans 3).</p> <p>How can anyone be saved if all are dead in sins and transgressions? God must seek man.</p> <p>How does God seek man? First, he elects some to eternal life and then, in time and space, saves them by the work of Jesus Christ at the cross and in the resurrection.</p> <p>What is the first verse in the Bible that reveals that God seeks after man? Genesis 3:15, which speaks of Jesus Christ as the “offspring of the woman (Eve).” Genesis 3:15 says: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”</p>
Bible Reading	Joshua 7-10 [Israel’s initial conflicts with the nations] (covering the great Bible stories)