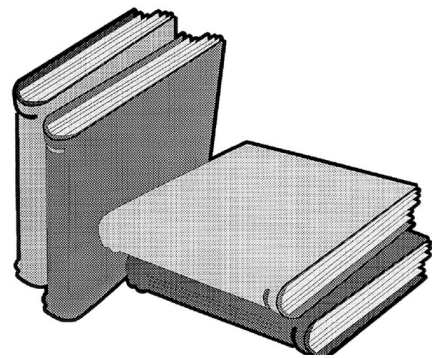


The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,
collected by Dean Brown



Issue 3002

An Easter Meditation II – Delayed This Year.

The Westminster Larger Catechism accompanies the Confession quoted last week, though it is not in the back of the hymnal. Here it discusses **the lives of the believers with Christ:**

Q 82. What is the communion in glory which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?

A. The communion in glory which the members of the invisible church have with Christ is
in this life,
immediately after death,
and at last perfected at the resurrection and day of judgment.

These three stages provide the believer with a framework to understand and anticipate the communion in glory which he [meaning person] has with Christ and because of Christ.

The first stage ... with Christ is one of anticipation. The tastes of glory which a believer gets in this life are perhaps better thought of as foretastes of glory. ... The divines note that believers, “enjoy the sense of God’s love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, and hope of glory, while to the wicked ... (Question 83).

The second stage ... is marked by joyful rest mixed with eager longing. There is a tension between the “already” and the “not-yet for those who have died, just as there is for those who still live... For while death brings the believer into the “highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory,” and their souls are “made perfect in holiness,” they are, nevertheless, still waiting for “the full redemption of their bodies”.

But this is not an anxious waiting. The Catechism says that the bodies of believers, “rest in their graves as in their beds, till at the Last Day they be again united to their souls. (Question 86)

B. E. Franks, “**Full Redemption: The Puritan Doctrine of Glorification**”, in the Confessional Presbyterian, 2019 annual issue. Available for purchase; see me for details.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.