

The first chapter of the Westminster Confession of Faith

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A talk given before the Bible Presbyterian Elders' Association on

October 24, 1949

As we look at the table of contents of the Confession of Faith, we note that it contains ^{more than thirty} ~~25~~ chapters. It is interesting to see which chapter comes first.

Does the ~~sixth~~ Confession start with a discussion of human needs? There is much in it about human need and its satisfaction, but that is not where the Confession begins.

Does the Confession begin with a statement about God and His attributes? Does it lay a foundation for belief in a certain type of God and then deduce everything else from that as a starting point? No, it does not start with God.

The Confession does not start with human need; it does not start with the presupposition of a certain theory ^{of} viewpoint about God; it starts with the Holy Scriptures. This was no accident; it was instead, a clear expression of the viewpoint of ^{the} men who wrote the Confession of Faith of our church. They believed that there is one way, and only one way, in which we can learn what is vital about God and what is vital about the satisfaction of human need. They believed that God has given us a book which provides the knowledge that He desires us to have about sacred things, about Himself, and about the satisfaction of our needs. If we are going to find satisfactory answers to any of these questions, the place to start is with the Book which God has given us: this is the foundation viewpoint of the Westminster Confession.

There are men who think that a person can think and ponder and meditate, and can find within himself the answers to all the problems of the universe. That is not the view of the Westminster Confession of Faith.