

## Lecture 25 – The Means of Grace: The Word & Sacraments

*What are the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?*  
WSC Q88

*The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption are, his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation*  
WSC A88

### Key Terms

Word, Spirit, ministry & authority, sacraments, visible form of invisible grace

### Lecture Objectives

- Identify and describe the means of grace
- Locate and relate the biblical justification for doctrines on the means of grace
- Describe the relationship of the means of grace to the trinity and the Christian life
- Explore the application of this doctrine to life and ministry

### Preview

As we have studied, the distinguishing marks of the church are the Word, sacraments and discipline. Today we will begin an in depth discussion of the Word and sacraments as means of grace utilizing the biblical data, as well as, the Westminster Confession of Faith. Prior outline points have been listed for continuity.

### The Means of Grace: The Word & Sacraments

I. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

II. The Doctrine of Election

III. The Doctrine of the Church

\*IV. The Means of Grace

A. Introduction

1. Definition

2. Means

a. Word

b. Sacraments

c. Prayer

B. The Word

1. The power of the Word

a. Romans 1:16

b. Acts 20:32

c. James 1:21

2. The Word and the Spirit

a. John 3:8

b. 1 Peter 1:3, 23

c. James 1:18

d. Westminster Shorter Catechism

3. The ministry of the Word

a. Ministers

1) Luke 1:2

- 2) 2 Corinthians 1:24; Philemon 8-9
  - 3) Calvin's commentary
  - b. Recipients
    - 1) Acts 17:11
    - 2) 1 John 2:20-27
  - c. Scope of the ministry of the Word
    - 1) Acts 20:21, 24
    - 2) Acts 20:27
  - d. Results of the ministry of the Word
    - 1) 2 Timothy 3:14-17
    - 2) 1 John 2:24-25
- C. Sacraments
- 1. The sacraments in general
    - a. Classic definitions
      - 1) Augustine
      - 2) Peter Lombard
      - 3) The Westminster Standards
    - b. Biblical teaching
      - 1) Similarities
        - a) Author
          - (1) 2 Timothy 3:16
          - (2) 2 Peter 1:2-11
          - (3) Matthew 28:19-20
          - (4) Matthew 26:26-28
        - b) Content
          - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
          - (2) Acts 22:16
          - (3) 1 Corinthians 11:26