**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 7:7-29 Lord’s Day 25#2

**Singing:** 405:1, 5-7 – 233:1-6 – 232:1-3 – 162:1-2

**How to receive and strengthen saving faith? (2)**

I. Use God’s ordained means II. Look to God’s ordained Mediator

**I. God’s ordained ‘means of grace’**

A. *“I have been asking, seeking and knocking yet I am unconverted. I must*

 *be a reprobate.”*

 1. Consider God’s answer in Canons I, 16 (page 100)

 a. we may never conclude ourselves to be *reprobate* ahead

 b. we are commanded to *persist in the diligent use of the means*

 c. we are to remember Christ’s promises to seekers

 2. What are God’s ordained means of grace ***to work saving faith***?

 a. Scripture

 b. prayer with opened Scripture

 c. godly company

 d. sacred music

**II. Look to God’s ordained Mediator**

A. Saving faith is vital as it unites to Jesus Christ

 1. Scripture compares the union to marriage: Romans 7:4

B. While we are to *use God’s ordained instruments working faith*, we are to

 look to the ordained Mediator for the faith He requires

 1. True saving faith is beyond our power (John 6:44; Eph. 1:19-20)

2. What are we do then: *Look to Jesus for what He calls us to do*

a. Jesus is the *Author and Finisher of faith* (Heb. 12:1)

 b. Jesus is exalted to the Prince and Savior to give repentance and

 faith: Acts 5:31-32

 c. Jesus we are commanded to hear: Luke 9:35; Is. 42:1; 45:22

 3. All these instructions *direct us to look at Jesus Christ*

C. Same direction is true *for the strengthening of faith*

 1. Though exercise will strengthen faith, the real strength to be

 strengthened through exercises comes from ‘Finisher of our faith’

 a. assurance doesn’t come *through experiences* but through *faith in*

 *Jesus Christ and His Gospel promises* (see Cat. 66-67)

 ● on Thy Word do I hope

b. our eyes must be *directed to what lies* ***outside of us in Christ and***

 ***doing so gives a stedfast walk in live!***

 *My hope is built on nothing less,*

 *Than Jesus Christ, my righteousness,*

 *I dare not trust the sweetest frame,*

 *But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.*

 *On Christ, to solid Rock, I stand,*

 *All other ground is sinking sand*

 *When darkness veils His lovely face*

 *I rest on His unchanging grace;*

 *In every high and stormy gale,*

 *My anchor holds within the veil*

 *His oath, His covenant, His blood,*

 *Support me in the whelming flood;*

 *When all around my soul gives way,*

 *He then is all my hope and stay!*

Finally: Pharaoh instructed the Egyptians: *Go to Joseph!*

A. Go at once to Jesus in prayer!

B. Consider Jesus asking you “What would you have me to do unto you?”

C. Be warned not to neglect so great salvation (Heb. 2:3; Prov. 29:1)