

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 2

SINGING: 51:1-3 – 294:1-3 – 119:1-4 – 421:3-4

Opening Question

- Why is knowing you are saved by God's omnipotent grace the greatest comfort in life and death?

- How does one come to know this comfort?

THE QUESTION: AM I SAVED?

- 1) What is it to be saved? 2) How am I to be saved?
3) How would I know that I am saved?

I. WHAT IS IT NOW REALLY TO BE SAVED?

A. To be saved lit means 'to make whole' (Acts 5:9)

1. we need this restoration in two aspects
 - a. our relationship with God

 - b. our condition of heart

2. without facing and believing these two truths, we remain unconcerned

B. To be saved is to undo what sin had done

1. it restores the relationship between God and me (Eph. 2:4-6, 11-13)
 - a. what are the main fruits of this restoration?
 - peace with God: Rom. 5:1
 - adoption as sons and daughters: Gal. 4:5
 - inheritance of eternal dimensions: 1 Peter 1:4; Rev. 21:4
 - all provisions of journey hence: Rom. 8:32
 - certainty that all things work together: Rom. 8:28

2. it restores the condition of our heart (1 Thes. 1:9; Gal. 5:22)
 - a. begins with regeneration to end in full glorification (Rom. 8: 30)

 - b. gradual and (here on earth) incomplete work of Spirit
 - viewing a saved sinner, we can consider such in 2 ways
 - focus on the (remaining) desolation

 - focus on the (progressing) restoration

II. HOW AM I TO BE SAVED?

A. Crystal clarity is necessity here

1. We are *born unsaved* even though we are *born in church community*
2. We are not saved *because* we are believers of the Christian creed
3. We are not saved *by our works*

B. How then is one so lost and sinful saved?

1. By the *power of God exercised* upon us personally
 - a. Catechism speaks about being *ingrafted into Christ*
 - b. only when the Almighty acts will one be united by faith to Christ
 - man is entirely passive in this work of God: John 1:13; 3:8
 - as fruit of God's work, man becomes active in bearing fruit: Eph. 2:10; 1 Thes 1:3
2. (True saving) faith plays a vital in God's work of saving a sinner

III. HOW DO I KNOW THAT I AM SAVED?

A. 'By the fruit of the tree' do we know the nature of the any tree

1. impossible to stay the same when united to Christ
2. main and most critical fruit if 'faith' itself

APPLICATION

A. If God is sole author of salvation, carrying out His eternal will, then I will just wait for Him to act.

1. Watch against Satan's device to make you think ill of God.
2. Be aware than all Scripture doctrine is to encourage us to return

B. I am so discouraged, feel so unworthy because I am so hard, cold and wicked.