

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 & Romans 10

Singing: 238:1-3 – 143:1 – 70:1-5 – 328:1-4 – 417:1-3

Opening observations

➤ All spiritual life flows from the sinners' union with Christ

➤ The marks of this union will prove the union

*Not everyone has a clear spiritual memory of how it went between their soul and Christ, especially those who didn't have deep, crushing, penetrating convictions and humiliations of heart. Yet the union may be true without any of these. We **have to determine the union out of the consequences.** This is the way that God so clearly teaches in His Word in giving so many characteristics (marks) of His saving grace so that we come through the marks to the truth of the matter. **Truly, the most infallible proofs that someone is ingrafted into or united to Christ are drawn from the result of this union.** Do you doubt this union? Go to the marks of grace. If you have those, be assured that **you are in Christ Jesus**, for "if any man is in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature." (A. Comrie)*

➤ This union makes the sinner partaker of all Christ's benefits

➤ How will I be united to Christ?

SAVING FAITH (1)

I. Author II. Means III. Place IV. Elements V. Exercises VI. Benefit

I. THE AUTHOR OF FAITH

A. The Author is God the Holy Spirit: Phil. 1:29; 1 Cor. 12:3; Eph. 2:8-10

II. THE MEANS WHEREBY THE SPIRIT WORKS FAITH

A. He uses the (preaching of the) Gospel (Rom. 10:14, 17)

1. God ordinarily works everything *via the use of means*

2. In His wisdom, He decreed faith to be worked *as we hear His Word*

a. consider His call and promise in Proverbs 1:20-23

• turn away from all that *deadens your spirit – heart*

• turn to His Word which He promises to bless

III. THE PLACE WHERE SAVING FAITH IS WORKED

A. Define 'the heart of man'

1. The three 'parts' of the heart: *mind (understanding) – will - affections*
2. Each part is *affected or influenced* by the Spirit of Christ

B. Scripture identifies 'faith that are not saving'

1. Historical faith: *mainly affecting the mind (head)*
2. Miraculous faith: *mainly affects will*
3. Temporary faith: *mainly rooted in feelings*

C. Saving faith affects our entire person and saves from sin

CLOSING APPLICATION: CALL TO EXAMINE (2 COR. 13:5)

A. Examine the differences between *temporary and true faith*

1. what are you mainly occupied with regarding sin?
2. what is the nature of your spiritual convictions about sin?
3. what happens to the degree of your convictions in time?
4. which attributes of God are most moving you?
5. what makes you mainly groan or long inwardly?
6. how is your relationship to all sins?
7. what hinders you most to come to assurance or comfort?

Saving faith is repentant faith.

Saving faith is not offered to man; it is worked in man.

Saving faith is not the human work of a sinner seeking salvation, but the divine gift of the gracious God seeking a sinner.