**Scripture Readings: Romans 8:1-17**

**Singing: 422:3-4 – 191:1, 3-7 – 152:1-5 – 71:1, 4, 5**

**How to be assured of salvation? (1)**

Premise: *If only I could hear God’s voice speak to me that I am forgiven like Isaiah or the woman at Jesus heard, then I have the best basis of*

 *my salvation?* (Isaiah 6:7 – Dan. 12:13 – Mark 2:5 - Luke 7:48)

A. Sad reality: *Many who are clear in understanding the teaching of*

 *justification by faith a*ren’t *living in comfort of the Gospel of ‘Christ*

 *for us’*

 1. What does John 3:16, Acts 13:38 (etc.) declare?

 2. Does the Word declare that believers may be sure of salvation?

 a. if not, how can the Word exhort God’s Church to be diligent to

 obtain full assurance of hope (Heb. 6:11-12; 2 Peter 1:10)

 b. if not, how can the Word speak about the believers’ *hearts being*

*comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding* as it comes in *power and in the Holy Ghost and in much assurance?* (Col. 2:2; 1 Thes. 1:5; Is. 32:17)

 3. The Spirit delights to bring assurance to God’s elect. (Rom. 8:15-16)

B. All of God’s children should *strive to obtain assurance of salvation*

 1. Does the NT anywhere encourage doubt or uncertainly about

 salvation a sign of humility?

a. note the emphasis on their *joy and confidence* (Acts 2:46-47;

 8:39; 13:52; Phil. 1:5, 26; 1 Peter 1:8)

 2. From days of Reformation, God revived teaching on assurance

 a. they upheld the NT teaching that *God’s church ought to know*

 *that they are justified*

b. They taught that *full assurance of faith* can be possessed at

 the very beginning of man’s conversion

 c. They vigorously opposed the teaching of the Church of Rome

 ● *assurance is the privilege of only a few favoured ones*

 *● on account of the many imperfections, a person can*

 *never know certainly that he found favour with God*

 *● assurance of faith would lead to pride while ignorance of*

 *the certainty of salvation preserves and increases humility*

 d. Rome’s teaching *left the poor consciences of men in perpetual*

 *doubt*. (Foxe’s book of Martyrs)

C. Our Creeds based on Scripture teach *assurance of faith* *as the norm*

 a. consider Canons I, 12, V, 9-11, rej. 10

 b. though the norm, they understood God’s children’s struggle with

 the assurance of faith (see Canons V, 11)

D. What are forces that battleassurance of salvation in God’s people?

 1. **Unclear understanding of *justification by faith only***

 a. all Spirit awakened hearts become and remain troubled with sin

 b. this experiential struggle with our indwelling sin tends to cloud

 the joy of justification by faith

c. Holy Spirit places great emphasis in NT on *instant and conscious*

 *justification upon faith in Jesus Christ*

 ● John 3:16; 5:24; Acts 13:38-41; Rom. 4:5

d. We don’t reach clarity on justification by *focusing our attention*

 *upon ourselves or the exercises of grace within our life.*

 **2. Unclear understanding *how the Holy Spirit* leads to assurance**

Closing: *The Gospel is not about what you did or are doing (faith or works)*

 but about *what Jesus Christ has done and is doing*.

That faith is never assaulted with doubting is but a fancy.

Sin can never quite rob God’s child from his cabinet of grace. Yet sin may steal away the key to jewel of assurance in this cabinet.