**Assurance of Faith #3**

**Scripture Reading:** 1 John 3

**Singing:** 128:1-3 – 300:1, 9, 11-13 – 82:1-3 – 5:1-5

A. Nothing more advances godliness than *assurance of faith*! (Canons V, 12)

B. Recognize Satan’s purpose to fight *assurance of faith*! (Canons V, rej. 6)

C. Assurance of faith is oftener spoken about that sought after. (Bonar)

 1. Do you wish for it but don’t seek it because it is so unlikely to receive

 for it is a privilege reserved for only a few of God’s children?

 2. Do you think it is *safer or better to doubt* for assurance of faith leans

 to presumption?

 3. Do you still cling to those who teach that to doubt is sounder and

 more spiritual than to believe? (Prov. 28:14)

**How to be Assured of your salvation? (2)**

I. It is fruit of the Holy Spirit’s ministry

II. It is based on the Holy Spirit’s testimony through the Word

II. God’s saints will be assured *by the Spirit’s testimony through the Word*

A. The work of salvation is always and only the *fruit of Holy Spirit’s witness*

 1. It is the Spirit Who begins to *witness about truth of Law*

 2. It is the Spirit Who testifies about and kindles faith in the *truth of the*

 *Gospel of Jesus Christ* (see Confession art. 22)

 3. It is the Spirit who works response of *faith and repentance*

B. The work of assurance the elect of their salvation is also the fruit of Spirit

C. How does the Spirit bring home the certainty of salvation?

 **1. Not *by any special, private (peculiar) revelation without/contrary to or independent of the Word of God* (Canon V, 10; rej. 5)**

 2. **But *by kindling faith in God’s promises which He has most***

 ***abundantly revealed in His Word for our comfort***

 a. some call this the *direct or short way* of assurance

 b. what does Spirit witness in a few these *abundant promises?*

 (1) *whosoever believeth in Him should not perish …John 3:15*

● that *all* *needed for my salvation is provided in Christ*

● that *all Christ’s becomes mine upon believing*

 (2) *if any man confess his sin – while looking to blood of Jesus which cleanses from all sin -- He is faithful and just to*

 *forgive and cleanse (1 John 1:7b, 9)*

 ● that *forgiveness is instant and real*

 (3) *and when I see the blood, I will pass-over* (Exod. 12:13)

 ● that in the judgment, God will only look at the blood to

 determine if He will pass us over

 c. Holy Spirit delights to assure God’s Elect the way of faith!

**Conclude with considering two common responses:**

A. What makes you sure you are really believing the things that give you peace and joy? Are you not deceiving yourself with a stolen

 Jesus?

B. Yes, all is true and beautiful are the promises, wonderful the peace

and joy but I don’t have that comfort because God isn’t exercising my faith and unless this is given, I am content to remain in doubts.