

Scripture: Isaiah 26:1-22

LD. 23.61

Singing: 149:1,2, 5, 6 -- 175:1-4 – 179:1-4 – 417:1, 3

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee,
Because he trusteth in thee. (Is. 26:2)*

The Function of Faith in Justification

I. Faith is meritless II. Faith is vital

Premised Truths:

A. Saving faith is God's gift (Eph. 2:8; Phil. 1:29; Col. 2:12; Matt. 16:16)

B. Not all faith is saving:

1. forms of non-saving faith: *we rely upon ourselves or others* (Jer. 17:5)

2. divine (saving) faith: *we rely upon Jehovah God* (Jer. 17:7; Ps. 2:12; 147:5)

C. Faith is not a complicated thing or act: Romans 10:6-13

1. Jesus compared saving faith to the *trust children exercise* (Luke 18:17)

Shall that be judged a mysterious and difficult thing which consists much in desire, 'Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness.' Is it a matter of such difficulty to look to the exalted Savior? Or to receive a thing that is offered or held forth and declared to be mine if I will be receive and take it, for such is faith. We often drive people from their rest and quiet by making them think about faith as something deep and mysterious, exciting unnecessary doubts about it, whereby it is needlessly darkened. (William Guthrie)

I. Faith is meritless

A. Though faith is indispensable, it *merits absolutely nothing*

1. Confession is not: *I am righteous before God because I have faith in Jesus*

a. such a confession is not reasonable

b. such a confession is not Scriptural

c. such a confession is not legal

2. That faith is not the key to merit salvation is comforting

a. smallest exercise of faith is saving: Is. 26:3-4; 30:15; 40:31; 49:23c

II. Faith is vital

A. Function of saving faith in Jesus Christ: *it unites us to Jesus Christ*

1. Cat: *I cannot receive and apply the same (i.e., the satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ) to myself than by faith only*

2. Conf. 22: *faith is only an instrument with which we embrace Christ*

3. Westminster Cat. 72

Justifying faith is a saving grace wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and Word of God, whereby he/she

- being **convinced** of his sin and misery, and of the disability in himself and all other creatures to recover him out of his lost condition

- not only **assents** to the truth of the promise of the Gospel but

- but **receives and rests** upon Christ and His righteousness therein held

forth for the pardon of sin, and the accepting and accounting his person righteous in the sight of God for salvation.

B. What is the basis of our justification before God?

1. Not *your faith* in Jesus

2. But the **Who** your faith is united to (Romans 10:9-11)

a. Luke 7:50: *Thy faith hath saved thee: go in peace*

b. Mark 5:34: *Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole: go in peace*

Finally

A. No doctrine than justification by faith in Christ so *exalts God & abases Man*

B. No doctrine preached in its purity provokes so much conflict as 'just by faith'

C. No doctrine is more heavenly – hope giving – saving – comforting!

But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name (John 1:12)

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:26)