

Scripture:

Romans 3

LD 23.59-61

Singing:

309 – 83 – 242 – 159

The fruit or Profit of Saving Faith in Jesus Christ (1)

Intro:

- A. True comfort is rooted in the *God-man* Jesus Christ
This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. (1 Tim. 1:15)
- B. True comfort is received through *faith in Jesus Christ* (Eph. 2:8)
1. Lords' Day 23.61 defines faith as *the receiving and applying of Christ and His benefits to ourselves.*
 2. But how does *trusting – believing Him* save a sinner?
 - a. not because of the **worthiness of our faith or mindset in which we exercise saving faith**
 - b. but because of God's promises in His Gospel: *John 3:36; 5:24; 6:47*
 3. Faith is like the *hand of a beggar that receives an offered gift*
- C. The blessings of profits of saving faith: Lord's Day 23.59-60; Conf. 23
1. This teaching is the *core of the Gospel*
 - a. this doctrine separates pure Christianity as Divinely unique

Three Scriptures describing the *fruit or profit of faith.*

John 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God.*

1. This profit belongs to *as many as received Him* (compare John 3;15, 16; 4:14)
2. The fruit of receiving Him is to *be given the power to become children of God.*
 1. Power refers to *the privilege or right* rather than *inward strength.*

John 3:36a *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life*

1. Each believer possesses *everlasting life*.
2. Everlasting life describes all the blessings of salvation.

Col. 1:21-22 *And you that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled, in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in His sight.*

1. Paul addressed this to *believers in Jesus Christ* (1:4)
 - a. how did they become that way? (vs. 6, 12, 13)
2. Paul reassured them of the benefits of their faith in Jesus (vs. 22)
 - a. It is not what they *experienced or felt* but what they *are in Christ*.

Concluding Application and Searching

A. Sinners: *What hinders your relationship and peace with God?*

1. Answer: *Your lack of righteousness (to be and do right in God's sight)*
2. Bad news: *We cannot undo or repair our brokenness.*
 - a. Our best righteousness is like Joshua's garments (Zech. 3:3)
 - b. We all come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:20, 23; Jer. 2:22)
3. Good news: *Jesus came into the world to save sinners and He invites you!*
"For Christ also hath once suffered for sin, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." (1 Peter 3:18)
 - a. NOTHING else can bring (reconcile) you with God (Gal. 2:21)

B. Believers: Be careful not to grieve the Spirit by seeking your rest in His work.

"It is the sin which so many are constantly falling into. If I look to conviction of sin within me, to any motion of indwelling Spirit, to any part of His work as the legitimate source of healing, comfort, or evidence, I turn my back on Christ. I remove my eye from the cross and slight His atoning work. I make a Christ of the Spirit." (O. Winslow)