

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-20 Lord's Day 7.22-23
Singing: 129:1-5 – 29:1-3 – 357:1-4 – 215:1, 2, 5, 6

A. In review we heard ...

- that we made ourselves unable and even unwilling to be saved (LD 2-5)
- that the hope for us fallen men is in Jesus Christ (LD 6)
- that to partake of this provision in Jesus Christ is by faith (LD 7.20-21)
- that faith in Jesus Christ is justifying (LD 23)

B. Next (future): *Assurance of faith*

- struggles like Thomas experienced are common (John 20:27-28)
- you may be a *true child* without being an *assured (confident) child*
- without assurance of faith, we miss the *enjoyment and rest of the Gospel*

C. Next: *A fresh exploration of the Gospel promises* (LD 7.22-23)

Paul's Gospel

- I. Needs to be declared by preaching II. Needs to be received by faith
III. Needs to be kept in memory IV. Needs to be passed on to others

I. Paul's Gospel needs to be declared by preaching

A. What is the Gospel Paul refers to?

1. He defined in this chapter as *story of Jesus Christ*: vs. 3-4ff

2. This is also how H. Catechism defines the Gospel (q. 19, 21, 22)
 - a. Is the *Apostle's Creed* the *Gospel of Jesus Christ*?

3. Gospel Jesus is heart of Scripture's message (1 Cor. 15:1-4; 1 Tim. 1:11)
 - a. Not everything in Scripture is strictly speaking **the Gospel**

 - b. Not everything in Scripture is essential to salvation

 - c. Yet all summed up in 12 Articles *is foundational and essential* (Col.

B. This Gospel needs to be *declared repeatedly* (vs,1, 3)

1. because the glorious Gospel of the blessed God is inexhaustible

2. because the Gospel is God's *power* to save sinners (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18)
3. because the Gospel (even in OT) is God's means to lead His people to assurance of faith (Luke 24:27, 44-45)

II. Paul's Gospel is to be received by us through faith

- A. God's Gospel is not just *announcement – description – analysis*
 1. It is a message that contains a *call to obey – invitation – promises to believe*
 2. To receive & stand on Jesus' Gospel implies also *to reject the devil's lies*

III. The Gospel is to be kept in memory to be saved in truth

- A. Paul pleads not to let go teaching he delivered to them (1, 3; Gal. 1:8-9)
 1. They faced heresy denying bodily resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor 15:12)
 2. This warning is not limited to *heresy about resurrection*
- B. Therefore Paul pleaded: *keep in memory – hold fast what I preached*
 1. that is as necessary today as then: 1 Tim. 4:2
 2. to 'keep in memory' is not to *memorize* but *believe* the Gospel (see 2b)!
- C. Paul asserted that we *are saved **only** if we keep it in memory*
 1. Continued faith is not the *condition* but the *evidence* of salvation
 2. Yet it again confirms the link between *faith and saved!*
 - a. to be saved in Scripture is always *past – present – future*

IV. The Gospel is to be delivered by us to others

- A. Paul 'received Gospel from God' and has *handed it down* (vs. 1, 3)
 1. To pass it on means to pass with similar passion as it came from God
 2. To pass it on also means to pass it on pure and undiluted as summed up in the Christian *Creeeds, Confessions, Catechism and Canons*

“Brief summaries of Christian doctrine are of great use to young beginners. The principles of the Word of God are brought into a little compass in the creeds and catechisms have and are like the beams of the sun contracted in a sunglass. Through this they convey the divine light and heat with a wonderful power.” (M. Henry)