



WCF 14.3 (TPH p927–8)

III. This faith is different in degrees, weak or strong;(k) may be often and many ways assailed, and weakened, but gets the victory;(l) **growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance through Christ,(m)** who is both the author and finisher of our faith.(n)

(k) Heb. 5:13, 14; Rom. 4:19, 20; Matt. 6:30; Matt. 8:10.

(l) Luke 22:31, 32; Eph. 6:16; I John 5:4, 5.

(m) Heb. 6:11, 12; Heb. 10:22; Col. 2:2.

(n) Heb. 12:2.

Hebrews 6:9 **But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner.** ¹⁰ **For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.** ¹¹ **And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,** ¹² **that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

Of what is the apostle already confident (v9)?

From where does he believe their previous work and labor have come (v10)?

Toward what does he believe this love and this work and labor have aimed?

In what was this love and work and labor for His Name displayed?

Yet, what does the apostle still desire (v11)?

What does he hope that this diligence will produce?

What effect does he believe that this assurance will have (v12)?

What precedent is there for it working this way?

²Peter 1:5 *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.*

¹⁰ *Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Hebrews 10:19 **Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**

What two things from Jesus are highlighted in v19–20? Where does He emphasize those things to us, and on what occasion did He institute that? In what role/office (v21)?

To what other sacrament does the apostle refer in v22? With what kind of heart does it help us draw near? With what kind of faith? On what occasion did He institute that (cf. Matt 28:17)? And in what roles/offices (cf. Matt 28:20)?

What does drawing near to Him with assurance enable us to do (v23a)? Upon what basis (v23b)?

When, especially, do we experience and strengthen this assurance (v24–25)?

Col 1:27 **To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.**

^{2:1} **For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, ² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

What gives us the (sure) hope of glory (v27)?

What aspect of glory is he especially emphasizing (end of v28)?

What effect did it have upon the apostle to have such a hope (v29–2:1)?

In what are they to be knit together (v2)? And what will this knitting together produce?

What mystery will they thus come to know? What two Persons do they thus know as God?

In Whom does this and all other treasures of wisdom and knowledge come?

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Let's let's go ahead and start with prayer.

How we thank you our father that you have.Given us your son.To cling to you by faith.And you are spirit.Who stirs up that faith in us.And produces in us the fruit of faith.So that we may not only be sure.That your son is a savior of it that we may also perceive and be sure.

Of that saving work that you have begun in us.We pray that you would use your word now holy spirit.To do some of that work.And that you would be glorified father son and spirit.For the God whom you have displayed yourself to be.In Jesus Christ and whose name we ask him amen.

So last week we spent the bulk of the time in first John end of chapter 4 in the first verse first five verses chapter five before we leave there as we go into the next part of the paragraph growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance through Christ.

Want to work down to you.Versus 11 through 13 of first John 5.

So then this is the testimony that God has given us eternal life.And this life is in his son.He who has the son has life he who does not have the son of God does not have life.These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God.

That you may know that you have eternal life and that you may and they add continue to hear or keep believing or just you say believe again and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God, so he's writing to believers but he's writing to believers that they may know that they have that life for which they have believed in the Lord Jesus so they already believe but he's writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that they may have.

Assurance assurance not only of Christ himself but of Christ working in them and having given them life.And that's what we're talking about when we talk about growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance through Christ, so let's turn to Hebrews chapter six.

One of the things that I've been asked about a couple of times last few weeks again or as about the proof text originally the Westminster confession was submitted to Parliament without proof texts.Because the doctrine was considered to be a cohesive hole and each of these parts of the doctrine were interdependent upon the entire scripture and so part of the reason was that our hermeneutics and our understanding of the Bible is Word of God so as the whole Bible proves these things that's a theological reason another reason why is just experientially the assembly meant for years and years some of these sentences.

And for.Razors and claws as we have were reasoned by dozens of pastors who or other quality that we find very rare today. They're fairly rare then as well. But they were reasoned by them from many different scriptures. And you would have ended up if they tried to recapture in in the footnotes all the scripture that was that was brought to bear on a,Discussion among these pastors for several days that would have been thick indeed is one of the so theological and and historical reasoning behind why they didn't and as I think we've said before we're working through the texts in their context just to show and hopefully not only for us to learn how to read the Bible and for us to learn how to do theology, but also increase I hope you're confidence.

In the soundness and reliability of this document that we accept as an accurate summary of what the Bible teaches I got to seminary. I was very sharp guy. I you know read the confession read the proof texts thought that there were a whole bunch of proof text that really didn't approve what they said they proved.

I've been corrected over and over again on those things that I thought really didn't prove it as I came to understand.Each of the texts themselves and really the whole scripture more I want I want you to have confidence in the reliability of this document and as we work through it slowly and see how the whole of the Scripture really does teach all of these things.

I want you children who grow up in this church and you learn a lot of theology. I hope.When you go out and you hear whether it's just a rabid atheist or you know some you know, sweet young nothing with space between their ears and a lot of energy try and say well, you know, there's lots of interpretations of the Bible there's lots of ways of thinking there's lots there's a lot well yeah that's true, but the Bible is a whole.

Teaches these specific things and I want you to have confidence and ability and handling not only the doctrine but the scriptures as a cohesive whole even if you never develop enough apologetic skill to show that to them and sweeten young methods of a lot of energy are not generally easily convinced because they operate on the basis of their feelings and their energy.

And so your reasoning from the Bible as a whole isn't going to help them much. But I wanted to help you so that you're not easily.Sucked into the.Things.So come out of first John 5 and into Hebrews 6 verse 9, but beloved we are confident a better things concerning you yes.

Things that accompany salvation. So as the apostles writing to them and wonderful, he calls them beloved and then he says, we're confident of better things concerning you yes things that a company salvation. So what kinds of things is he confident of concerning?Readers. Things that accompany.Salvation. Very similar to what we just saw the apostle.

John say and first on five that he's writing to the you who believe. That's one of the things when you come and you read the book of Hebrews and youth a warning passage and chapter six, you get the warning passage and in chapter ten do not think that.That.

Just because you resemble some of the things that it's warning about that you don't have salvations written to those of whom the writer by the Holy Spirit was confident concerning them that they had things that accompany salvation. They are real warnings, but they are warnings to stir up faith when it is there and if it's not there then you just fly to Christ.

But until he's already confident of things that accompany salvation for them and he says for God is not undressed to forget your work and labor of love. So as his confident of them of things that accompany salvation one of the things that accompany salvation is work and labor that matches what we've been seeing in Philippians 3 or Philippians 2 rather in the when the afternoons isn't it that work and labor our part of real Christian life.

They're not the opposite of grace, they are the fruit of grace but specifically he sees work and labor of love. So if he's observing in them and confident about them things that accompany salvation and he sees them working and laboring for God and we'll see something more specific about that in a moment when he says work and labor of love from where does he from where is he saying he believes they're working labor are coming.

Work and labor. Love. Okay, that's that's important. If you do your good works because you are trying to feel better about yourself. That's very different than feeling badly about your bad works because they're against the one you love and pursuing good works because they are for and pleasing and service of.

The one you love okay, so he describes to them. That God is not undressed to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward his name, so the the source of the working labor was working. Love and the labor is which you have shown toward. His name so they love his name they want his name to be glorified very wonderful little doctrine of what Christian good works look like they come from love they want glory for God's name and as we saw in first John if you love him, then you love his law because it is his and what else do you love because it is his it's a what question with a who answered him else you love because there is.

The church the saints hear that Psalm 16 the Lord is your portion so the godly ones are your delight and same thing here for God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have toward his name in that you have ministered to the saints and do minister and so one of the things you're asking God to do is he makes you more like Christ is help me to love your people because they are yours because they have your name on them because because that is, How I express love to you and work and labor out of that love to you and for the glory of your name is by ministering to the saints.

So he's described here these better things that accompany salvation that he is confident of in his readers and they says and we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end. So. He's confident of those things that accompany salvation verse 9 and 10 and yet he still desires something from them we desire that each one of you show the same diligence, what is you what is he desire to see them show?

Diligence is very important thing the Christian life has not just working labor but diligence and if you got one of the sheets just skip down it's not one of the proof text so I didn't put it in bold but I did give you a parallel passage with a bunch of parallel thoughts in that second Peter 1 5 through 11, you know, one of these passages that they're expecting that you will now and the theology of which the memory of which will be brought to bear as you read.

Hebrews. After 6 and Hebrews chapter 10 and so forth He says but also for this very very reason giving all diligence add to your faith and many of you know, where we are in the Bible now right because you add to faith virtue and then knowledge and self-control perseverance.

Godliness brotherly kindness love and then he says for these things are yours and abound you'll be neither bear nor in fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, he who lacks these things as sort of even a blindness have gotten these claims from his sins his old sins the Therefore brethren be even more and there's that word again diligent to make your call on the election shore and so we see the apostles now in three different places and three different apostles talking about the same thing those who believe being diligent in serving.

God out of love for him love for his law because it is his love for his people because there is because as God the spirit produces that love for him. Love for his law love for his people in us he is showing a work that displays that we are in Christ and he gives us assurance so John says what these things to you who believe so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Hebrews says we desire that each one of you show the same diligence unto or two the full assurance of hope until the end. Peter says therefore brethren be even more diligent. To make your call and election sure now even think this is controversial but this was very controversial in the 16th century because the papists the run.

Catholics didn't want you to be sure why?

That's right there, they had this fantastic racket going in which they profited off of your spiritual insecurity and so here always doing things and especially buying things from them often just a piece of paper that says, you know, it's like a monopoly card get out of ten thousand years of purgatory free except for the card wasn't free.

But also the Armenians there are many against assurance of faith in the same way that the Jews in. In the apostles day argued against assurance effect argued against salvation by grace the artery against salvation by grace saying if you say it's entirely by grace there is just going to one sin there are minions come along they say if you say there's such a thing as assurance of faith and as soon as somebody gets it then all they're going to do is want to sin except for how does assurance of faith come according to the Bible?

By working you the Holy Spirit is giving you love for God love for his law because it has love for his people because they're his. That is not an assurance of faith that leads you into sin. It assures the faith that leads you into loving his life loving him all the more loving his people all the

more because he's actually assured you by those things that he's working in you.

Yeah, Dave.

Well, let's not an actual Armenian nuts. Yeah, that's kind of a conflict of modern-day version of the papists, right? They are selling you that card to stick in the back of your Bible that says I made a decision on this day and whenever you have about you look at that card and you say once every day is saved yeah.

I've got the sticker in the back of my Bible. I'm fine. Yeah, so I was using the you know, the idea of Arminian more in terms of not just the Armenians of the 17th century, but really the the Wesleyans of the late 18th and into the what we've got now that stuff isn't even really Christianity.

The the I made a decision on this day, therefore. I'm saved. We call that we call it decisionism.

Wood. That's a big part of their of their doctrine that you can lose your salvation. It's over against many of you know an acronym tulip. It's over against the P. But even even those are not saying that you are saved by a decision. Even those would be saying that you are saved by the righteousness and sacrifice of Christ credited to you through faith.

And they would say that it produces fruit that without the fruit that you're not actually you have and actually been saved. We have a lot more in common with historic Armenians and Wesleyans than we do with the decisionist kind of thing that has filled the churches with unbelievers and destroyed what was called Christianity in the rest for 150 years or so.

But what you've run it has, That has in common with our millenarianism that you have in your power to make the decision.

But it's it's really a different thing altogether has more in common with pledging to join fraternities and sororities at university all of which fraternities sororities university pledging and decisionism. I would plead with you never even to consider as being offered to you by the devil and you know, you can come tell me about how wonderful your Greek chapter is.

Later yeah does that.

Reality. Out there a lot of consistency people that say some of the things that decision was to say right and so someone maybe saying, you know this that they don't make it we have to kind of discern when we're talking to people with they mean by what they're saying and maybe even what some of those inconsistencies are Jeremy.

Mack used to call them blessed inconsistencies that. We're where if you took the logical? Ramifications of what someone's saying to the end degree yes you'd end up you'd end up in some kind of paganism, but the question is are they taking it there so in a lot of these things that are not Christianity at all the Lord still may convert someone.

In a way that is opposite their professed doctrine. We're often believed better in reality than we think we do in our heads. I mean, I've seen it not just with just you know, people who are genuinely trusting and Christ alone and not their decision in a decision as church, there are people who are generally trusting Christ alone in the papacy which is the synagogue of Satan there are even people who self-identify as JW's, you know, one of my friends that seminary Jay Harvey before he had come to RTS he was a missionary in the Ukraine.

And one of the things he's most excited about in his entire time the Ukraine was when he met a group of Ukrainians that were calling themselves Jehovah's Witnesses, but what had happened was some JWs came with a Ukrainian translation that had you all of the traditionally intentionally messed up JW versus intentionally messed up in Ukrainian but the deity of Christ in salvation only by his righteousness and sacrifice is not something that appears then we're in a couple of dozen verses that you can you know, wipe out of the Bible by messing those up well the JW.

Arries had left and these Ukrainians had read their Bibles, you know these you know, JW messed up Ukrainian Bibles, and as Jay had talked to them, he said, you know, I have. Bad news and good news for you bad news is you are not drives witnesses, you've been wrong all this time good news is everything that you've just told me about Jesus and who he is and how he saves is absolutely true your Christians and he gave them better you crazy Bibles.

Okay, so just because. What is presented is not itself. Christianity does not mean that Jesus and God the Holy Spirit and the Father gives birth to us cannot present himself to the heart to the faith genuinely and work in them saving faith in himself even by those corrupted means but I think it's important and good to say that the papist faith is not Christianity, it's not a flavor of Christianity.

And decisionism is not Christianity it is not a flavor of Christianity it is a form of what we call auto-saturism self-salvation.

Often there's not even great reference to the atonement of Christ the righteousness of Christ, it's ask him into your life and he'll make everything better and you'll go to heaven forever and ever. And if you say the prayer to ask him into your life, then you get your sticker are there people who know and maybe have heard from those people that Jesus did die on the cross for their sins and Holy Spirit is brought him under conviction, you know under the under the rubric of what's described they've had saving their there are people who believe that way, but it's important to call State of Spade and to say what was presented to them is not Christianity, they may be Christian.

Anyway that's a great big money from the fact that to those who are believers there is in addition to this saving faith which is being sure of Jesus and of his salvation and assurance of his work in us and that assurance comes as the spirit gives this diligence and commands this diligence so he still desires that each one of them would show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope.

Until the end and you see that it has exactly the opposite and we'll just say Wesley in their very few who are calling themselves that today so very it's the as the opposite effect of what the Wesleyan said that the doctrine of assurance of faith would have less than said if you tell them that they can be sure that they have been saved then they will not want to obey but we'll just verse 12 chapter 6, say will be the result of.

This. Having full insurance to the end that you do not become sluggish but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises and so he says and there's precedent for this and he gives Abraham in the following verses in Hebrews chapter six as the precedent that the more Abraham drew sure the better that helped him keep unbelieving and patiently persevere and he inherited the promises.

Hebrews 10 next winning passage of. Will just go quickly therefore brother having boldness to enter the holiest by the blood of Jesus but I need living way which he is consecrated for us through the veil that is has flush and adding a high priest over the household of God or over the house of God is reference there to the flesh and blood of Christ who is priest over the house of God is definitely implied reference to the Lord's Supper in your member the Lord's Supper was given on the night that Jesus was not only betrayed by Judas but abandoned by.

By the rest of the disciples and so one of the main reasons for the Lord's Supper is to keep turning his people to Christ strengthening their faith growing their faith assuring them he makes reference to the other sacrament in verse 2 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith and that's the that's the phrase full assurance for which this ends up getting the proof text having our hearts sprinkled.

From an evil conscience and our bodies lost with pure walked with pure water so reference to baptism and you remember back in Matthew 28, don't let the people yeah don't when you're looking at the 28, sorry 28 18 to 24 baptism, make sure you start in verse 17 because the baptism and the great commission there are a response to the fact that even then some were doubting and so he.

Strengthens their assurance not only in the his priestly office in the Sacramento Lords supper but his kingly office and. Prophetic office in baptism teaching them to be kingly or when I have commanded you or teaching them to keep all that. I have commanded you kingly and then all that I've commanded you prophetic so all of it turning us to Jesus that as we feed upon him by faith as we have our confidence to approach God through him by faith ours we receive him as our king and commit ourselves.

To. All that he has commanded by faith all of these things in the two sacraments stir us up towards him and confidence that we are in him. This this enables us verse 23, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering for he who is who promised is faithful and now this is important because the meal is a covenant meal and the sign of baptism is a sign that sets you apart to in the church and so these things are especially displayed in the assembly, even if you don't have a baptism on that day and let us consider one another in order to stir up love.

And good works not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some but exhorting one another and much more as you see the day approaching so the words they assembly is especially for the increase of assurance of faith because the increase of assurance of faith is actually a help to love and good works not a hindrance to love and good works the more you see not only who Christ is and what he has done for you.

In his earthly life, but even now what he is by his spirit doing in you the more you are encouraged to love him and to serve him. And we're out of time we won't take the time to do the Colossians passage, hopefully the questions on the sheet if you want to work through that proof text as well will lead you in the right direction, it's one of the reasons why produce the sheets like this is so that you can buy the questions, you know, maybe not to the the fullness or the richness or the certainty as as presented in the class.

But I think just by the the questions that are there you can arrive at those at the doctrine of the text it's not it's not really hidden or hard to get at it's right there in the phrasing of the scripture, let's pray our father in heaven we thank you.

That you have set. Christ before us as all of our salvation. Not only what he has done that we rest upon entirely for our right standing with you not only what he is unto us that we rest upon and as our only hope of being made like him and growing in him.

Until those whom you have justified you have glorified but also that as your spirit works in us we can see that it's a work that's only coming from Jesus can only come from Jesus we pray that you would do that work. Holy Spirit, we pray that you would give us the ability to see it and are in lives and that rather than storing us up to pride which produces complacency and sluggishness that you would cause it to stir up thankfulness and produce more love and more.

That this would be a virtuous spiral carrying us as it were to glory do this for each of us we pray we do ask especially for these little ones that as as we move through your word and see how your whole Bible teaches all of these things that you will strengthen them their minds their hearts against the attacks and lies of the evil one that have filled not only the culture but even the churches do this.

For us we pray in grant to us your ongoing work and help as we come now to worship you in the public worship for we ask these things in Jesus name amen.