

INTRODUCTION

1. Cornelius Van Til discerned Neo-Orthodoxy from Catechism learned in Sunday School. PM series on "faith" is elementary - 2 Pt 1:12-15
2. Recall: climate of grace & necessity of new birth: Jn 8:43-47 & Mt 16:16-17 [Jn 1:12-13]

1st: Saving Faith is Given to Us as a Gift

1. Salvation is *provided* for us by Father in election, *procured* for us by Son's mediatorial work & *produced* in us by HS in regeneration & sanctification
2. God "grants" faith & repent. A 5:31 [A 11:18; A 13:48; A 16:14].
 - i. Phil 1:29 *granted to believe in Him* - by whom? v28 - *God*.
 - ii. 2T 2:25 *perhaps God may give repent*
3. Divine grace alone is the explanation for our saving faith.
 - i. Act 14:27; A 15:11; A 18:27
 - ii. Eph 2:8 what is *that*? Faith, grace, or salvation?
 - iii. 2 Pt 1:1 *have received a like precious faith*

2nd: Saving Faith is Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

1. Faith = God's gift designed to be used. Illust: Dad gives son a car so that son can visit him. Car is instrument -not cause or basis of rlshp.
2. We are justified *by, thru, upon, & according to faith* - but not *because of* faith. "Faith" is a *transitive verb*: requires a direct object wh/ transfers it-self onto the verb & defines the action.
 - i. Intransitive verb: *sleep* - or *die*.
 - ii. Transitive - "please bring..."?! What?! Verb "to catch".
 - iii. "I believe" - requires a direct object.
3. Faith in Jesus Christ. Ferguson, Know Your Xn Life, p.60, "True faith takes its character & quality from its object & not from itself. Faith gets a man out of himself & into Christ."
 - i. Faith is not believing that you have believed.
 - ii. The origin & object of faith determines our experience of believing. Origin: regeneration - object: Jesus revealed in Scripture.
 - iii. Do you want faith to grow? Look at Jesus, not your faith [altho 2C 13:5 & 1Jn]. Nevertheless, faith is always looking to Jesus.

3rd: Jesus Saves All Who Believe in Him for Salvation

1. Nuance: it is not faith that saves, but faith in Jesus Christ the Savior who saves. Warfield [*Biblical & Theol'al Studies*, p.424-425]: "The *saving power* of faith resides... not in itself, but in the Almighty Savior on whom it rests. It is not faith that saves, but faith in Jesus Christ... It is not, strictly speaking, even faith in Christ that saves, but Christ that saves through faith. The saving power resides exclusively, not in the act of faith or the attitude of faith or the [subjective] nature of faith, but in the object of faith... We cld not more radically misconceive the biblical representation of faith than by transferring to faith even the smallest fraction of that saving energy wh/ is attributed in the Scriptures solely to Christ Himself."
2. Mat 1:21 "Jesus" means "YHWH saves"
3. 1T 1:15 - *to save sinners*.
4. Lk 7:50? *your faith saved you* - faith seen in v37-38; already believed in Jesus for forgiveness of sin. Paralytic [Lk 5:20] faith seen as faith in Jesus

4th: The Gospel Summons Us to Believe in Jesus

1. A 16:30-31 Tension - Gospel addresses men as image of God who are yet dead in sin. Summons, yet dependent on grace.

Applic #1: Encourage the Growth of Faith Wherever We Find It.

1. Barnabas - A 11:23-24.
2. Saving faith can be *weak* or *strong* - but if the object of faith is Jesus, it is *saving* faith. cf. Simeon in Lk 2 & woman in Mat 9:20. Grow - [2 Pt 3:18].

Applic #2: If We Have Faith, Exercise It & Grow in Holiness & Usefulness.

1. LBC 14:2 - respond to entirety of Scripture *looking to Jesus the author & perfecter of faith* [Heb 12:2].
2. What are you doing of wh/ Jesus could say, *your faith has made you well*?
3. The best protection from counterfeit is thorough knowledge of the genuine. [2Pt 3:18] AMEN