

Scripture: Romans 10

LD 25.65

Singing: 397:1-4 – 318:1-5 – 160:1-4 – 294:1-3

Intro. The Lord Jesus' preaching still 'kills & heals, empties & fill'

TRUE SAVING FAITH (1)

I. Huge Benefit II. Divine Author III. Simple Means

I. THE HUGE BENEFIT OF TRUE SAVING FAITH

A. Saving faith makes us partakers of Christ and all His benefits

1. Scriptures to support this: John 1:12; 1 Cor 3:21-22; Eph. 1:3; 11-14; 18

II. THE DIVINE AUTHOR OF TRUE SAVING FAITH

A. Scripture teaches squarely that saving faith is God's work

1. Take John 6:44

2. Take Eph. 2:8 (with 1:13; 1:19-20)

III. THE SIMPLE MEANS

A. Holy Spirit does not work faith miraculously: Romans 10:14-17

1. See examples in Matt 28:19-20; Acts 8: 31; Acts 9:4; Acts 10:44; Acts 16:14

2. Observe that it is not *the law preaching that brings to saving faith*
 - a. law discovers sin and convicts of sin but leaves us lost

b. but only Gospel preaching bring to faith: Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:2

B. What is the Gospel? 2 Cor. 5:19ff; Mark 16:15

1. That God has not pleasure to leave you where you are: Ezek. 33:11

2. That God has pleasure in the death of His Son to reconcile Himself to the world of sinners: 2 Cor. 5:19

3. That God assures that Jesus is the suitable and available Savior for you:
John 1:29

4. That you are invited to trust Him as your willing and able Savior: John 3:16

C. But *how* does preaching the Gospel work faith in us?

1. How is not clear: Eccl. 11:5; Canons ¾,13

2. But that it does is clear in fruits: Acts 13:48b; John 6; Ezek. 36:26; Ezek. 37

Reflection: *Though Spirit works faith, He does not do it in same manner or order*

A. His most common way

1. He convinces you of your sinful, lost, and condemnable state

2. Upon His *preparatory* work, the Holy Spirit brings one to faith in Jesus!

a. He reveals Jesus Christ through the preaching of the Gospel

b. He overcomes doubts and fears through ongoing preaching of Gospel

c. He enables our soul to embrace Jesus in faith upon His offer

B. His other ways of leading sinners are no less glorious

1. He can sweetly open the heart in one sermon to embrace Jesus (Acts 16:14) or through one sudden event (Acts 16:31-33)

2. Some hear the call of the Gospel "Follow Me" without seeking it and follow Him at once: Matt. 9:9

3. Others are suddenly overwhelmed & filled with love of Jesus: Luke 19:1-10

4. Many receive saving faith in Jesus in their early youth: Samuel, John Baptist

C. But all the different ways end the same: *He increase, and I decrease!*

It requires not only a power, but an almighty power, to raise the heart of man to believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Richard Sibbes)

Yet a very weak faith may receive a very strong Christ. (Thomas Watson)