

Scripture: Isaiah 52

Singing: 164:1-4 – 188:1-4 – 147:1-2 – 80:1-2 – 415:7, 10

Intro: What is God's purpose in the sacraments? (HCat, q/a 66; Larger Cat. 162)

- ... that by the use therefore He may the more fully declare and seal to us the promise of the Gospel, namely, that He grants us freely the remission of sin and life eternal for the sake of that one sacrifice of Christ accomplished on the cross.

A. God's Spirit works the assurance of faith and hope

1. Through enabling us to believe the abundant Gospel promises (Ps 119:81)
2. Through enabling us to recognize His saving working within (1 John 3:14a; 4:13; Rom 8:9b; 11; 14 etc.)
3. Through the Spirit's testimony with our spirit (Rom. 5:4-5; Rom. 8:16)

THE LORD'S MINISTRY TO SAINTS WALKING IN DARKNESS (2)
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I. His inquiring question II. His pastoral direction
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II. The LORD's pastoral direction

A. The LORD directs us to *the Name of the LORD*

1. What is meant with 'Name of the LORD'?

2. God is often styled as the *Holy One of Israel*

a. 'holiness' is God's otherness (Hebrew: *a cut above*)

b. in what ways is God holy, i.e., so indescribably great?

B. The LORD directs us to *trust in Name of LORD and stay upon his God*

1. What is to *trust – stay*?

a. it is to commit yourself to Him

b. it is give yourself to Him

2. Though to trust involves both mind and feelings, it is an act of the will (made willing in the day of God's power Ps. 110:3)

Closing Reflections:

A. Do you the confession of Ps. 31:1?

In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.

B. Hear God's own answers on this prayer:

For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved. (Romans 10:11, 13)

...whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. He that believeth on Him is not condemned. (John 3:16, 18)

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee. (Is. 26:3)

C. "But I find it so hard to believe that this is *true for me.*"

This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me. This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. (Luke 22:19, 20)

- to attend the Lord's Supper the *assurance of faith* about the Gospel promise is necessary
- yet the Lord's Supper was instituted to strengthen the *assurance of hope* that His life and death I believe is the only way of salvation, was actually done also for me