

INTRODUCTION

1. Studying faith - much should be familiar to you. Reformed tradition: knowledge, agreement, trust.
 - i. helpful self-exam - 2C 13:5
 - ii. discern false faith - Jms 2:19; Tit 1:16
 - iii. inform others - 1T 1:5
2. "Faith" like "love", a Bible term rld to theology. "Good" - Lk 18:18-19
3. LBC 14:2 - see the 3 components? Faith responds to what God's Word does: informs, commands, threatens, promises: focused on Christ.

1st: The first necessary component in saving faith is knowledge.

1. Saving faith requires that we know what we profess to believe.
 - i. Contra RCC "implicit faith"
 - ii. "Implicit faith" gives assent but w/o understanding
 - iii. LBC (20:2)
 - iv. Saving faith has rational content: *consider*.
2. Faith consists of information, facts, data: content - the Bible.
 - i. Jn 2:22 disciples believe content of words of Script & Jesus' words
 - ii. Jn 5:46-47 Phars not believe Bible or Jesus' words
 - iii. A 24:14-15 Paul's defense: faith in Bible - resurrection & Judgment
 - iv. 1 Jn 4:4-6 men distinguish selves by response to apostolic words.
3. We must *believe that* - propositional assertions: content of knowledge [Jn 8:24; Jn 11:42; Jn 14:11; Jn 16:27; Jn 20:31; Heb 11:6; Rom 10:9; 1 Thes 4:14; 1 Jn 5:1; 1 Jn 5:5]
4. Xn *believes that...* fill in content of Bible doct re: person & work of Jesus.
5. Knowledge of Scripture gives a cognitive foundation to faith [R 10:17; Eph 4:21; 2 Thes 2:10; 2 Tim 2:25]. Faith knows, not totally, but truly.
 - i. PostMod'ism's false option: either absolute knowledge or total skepticism. We do not know comprehensively but we can know competently, adequately in order to trust in Jesus w/ humble submission to revelation, dependent on HS - 2Pt 3:18
 - ii. Mere sincerity is insufficient. One can be sincerely wrong. Mk 12:24

- iii. If faith does not rest on truth it will rest on lies [2 Th 2:11-12]

2nd: The second necessary component in saving faith is assent.

1. Assent is the intellectual agreement w/ Scriptural facts re: a sinner's need for salvation & Jesus adequacy to meet that need.
2. Even w/ these 2 components, we do have saving faith.
 - i. King Agrippa - A 26:26-28
 - ii. Nicodemus in Jn 3.
 - iii. We need discernment - Jms 2:19
3. Nevertheless, assent is necessary [Mt 21:25; 1 Jn 4:1a; Jn 8:31]

3rd: The third component of saving faith is trust.

1. Personal confidence: faith's definitive trait. Personal commitment to Jesus.
2. Prepositions used with "to believe": upon [A 16:31]; in [Jn 3:15] into [Jn 3:16; 6:29]
3. Saving faith: *looks* [Num 21:9 w/ Jn 3:14,15]; *eats & drinks* [Jn 6:50-58]; *& receives* or *comes to* [Jn 1:12; 5:40; 6:44,65; 7:37,38]: personal commitment & confident reliance

Applic #1: Do I know the facts of the gospel?

1. Bible illiteracy is a modern plague. Are you reading Bible in order to know its content?

Applic #2: Do I realize that mere agreement with the facts is not enough?

1. Danger for religious people. It is one thing to know "all men die: & another to realize "I am dying".

Applic #3: Am I trusting in Jesus Personally as my Personal Savior and Lord?

1. Jn 6:68-69 *to whom? You* - Jesus' words. Sheep hear & follow: [Jn 10].
2. Personal trust - Jn 6:53-58 Trust is putting your life on the line: to eat & drink Jesus as the substance of your life: now & forever.