

Systematic Theology

The Doctrine of Salvation: Faith and Repentance

I. Prevailing Opinions about the Nature of Faith

II. The Nature of Saving Faith

- A. David Brainerd's objection to a prevailing notion
- B. Saving faith is a gift of grace (Rom. 12:3; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 1:29; 1 Tim. 1:13-14)
- C. Saving faith is in a Person, not a proposition (Jn. 17:3; 1 Jn. 5:20; Phil. 3:10)
- D. Saving faith is an act of the mind, the will and the affections

II. The Nature of Repentance unto Life

- A. What repentance is
 - 1. A real change of mind regarding sin and grace
 - 2. A real turning away from sin to sin
- B. Repentance is necessary to true conversion
Isa. 55:7; Lk. 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19-20; 17:30; 2 Cor. 7:10
- C. Repentance is a divine gift
Jer. 31:18; Acts 5:31; 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:25
- D. Repentance is the other side of faith
Mk. 1:15; Acts 20:21; 26:18-20
 - 1. Repentance, as the other side of faith, is not merely sorrow (2 Cor. 7:8-10)

Luther, "Repentance is not penitence alone but also faith, which apprehends the promise of forgiveness, lest the penitent sinners perish."
 - 2. All true faith is repentant faith and all true repentance is believing repentance (1 Thess. 1:9)
- E. All true repentance bears fruit and is a lifelong disposition
Lk. 3:7-8; Prov. 28:13

Luther, "To probe and ponder how bad you have been is not enough if you do not ponder and probe much more how good you desire to become."