

## ***Of Saving Faith, Part 2 (Acts 24:14)***

*Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) Chapter 14, Paragraph 2*

### **Doctrine: The Substance of Saving Faith**

#### *Saving Faith and Trust in the Word of God*

- Saving faith leads to trust that everything, without exception and reservation, in God's Word is **true**.
- The Christian trusts that Word of God is **authoritative** because it is from God (2 Tim 3:16).
- The Church, privately and collectively, apprehends that God's Word is more **excellent** above all other writings and things in the world (Psa 19:7-10).
- We love God's Word because we love **God**.
- Just as our love for and understanding of God **matures** in the life of the Christian, so too our love for and understanding of His Word.

#### *Saving Faith and Awe in the Glory of God*

- Saving faith leads to awe in the **glory** of God – particularly in His attributes.
- Saving faith brings wonder at the **excellency** of Christ – in His nature (true God and true man) and offices (Prophet, Priest, King).
- The Christian is led to behold the **power** and fullness of the Holy Spirit – in His workings and operations.

#### *Saving Faith and Responding to the Word of God*

- Saving faith enables the elect to cast our soul on the **truth** thus believed.
- Christians are moved to **act** differently and accordingly based on each passage of Scripture:

- 1) Yielding obedience to **commands** (Jn 14:15);
- 2) Trembling at the **threatenings** (Isa 66:2); and,
- 3) Embracing God's **promises** for this life, and that which is to come (Heb 11:13).

#### *The Principle Act: The Christian's Relation to Christ*

- The immediate and primary work of saving faith is to **unite** the elect to Christ – that they accept, receive and rest on Christ alone for justification, sanctification and eternal life (Acts 16:31).
- Such reconciliation and faith is by virtue of the covenant of **grace** (Acts 15:11).

### **Application**

- 1) **Delight** in the Word of God: That is, we rejoice in the treasure that is having the inspired, authoritative and sufficient Scriptures as the only rule of faith and life.
- 2) **Reverence** towards the Person of God: In all things, we worship and live before God in reverence of His holiness and sovereignty.
- 3) Response to the **Word** of God:
  - a) All these things which God has told us, we confess;
  - b) All these things which God has commanded us, we do;
  - c) All these things which God has promised us, we believe.
- 4) Response to the **work** of God: May we be a congregation who seeks to mature in true faith and repentance.