

WCF Chapter 14, Of Saving Faith

Super Quick Review:

Chapters 1-3 Background

1. Holy Scripture
2. God, and of the Holy Trinity
3. God's Eternal Decree

Basis of Knowledge
Who God is
What He Purposed
(Foreknow/Predestine)

Chapters 4-5 Creation

4. Creation
5. Providence

Stage Set
Care of Stage

Chapter 6 Fall

6. The Fall of Man, of Sin, and Punishment

Fall of Mankind

Chapters 7-17 Basis of Redemption

7. God's Covenant with Man
8. Christ the Mediator
9. *Free Will*

Second Covenant
Necessary Mediator
Parenthesis: Limitation of Will

Chapters 10-18 Application of Redemption

Romans 8:28 *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are **called** according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be **conformed** to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he **predestined** he also **called**, and those whom he called he also **justified**, and those whom he justified he also **glorified**.*

Eternity Past:

- Chapter 3. Foreknowledge
- Chapter 3. Predestination

Present:

- Chapter 10 Effectual Calling

Monergistic Work of God:

11. Justification
12. Adoption
- 13:1. Sanctification (definitive)

Synergistic Work of God and man:

14. Saving Faith
15. Repentance
- 13:2, 3. Sanctification (progressive)
16. Good Works
17. Perseverance
18. Assurance

Introduction: “believer” beware

- Saving Faith vs. False Faith (Mat. 13:18ff; Mat. 7:21ff)

Section I. The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is **ordinarily wrought** by the ministry of the **Word**, Faith is a **human category**

- Grace of Faith-
- Faith through hearing-
- “Ordinary” stipulates exceptions (WCF 10:3)-
- Content of saving faith never contradicts “ministry of the Word”-

by which also, and by the administration of the **sacraments, and prayer**, it is increased and strengthened.

- Means of grace are essential-
- Word-
- Sacraments
 - Baptism-
 - Lord’s Supper-
- Prayer-

Section II. By this faith, a Christian believes to be true **whatsoever is revealed in the Word**, for the authority of God Himself speaking therein;

- Faith is finally arbitrated by Word of God-

and **acts differently** upon that which each particular passage thereof contains; yielding **obedience** to the commands, **trembling** at the threatenings, and **embracing** the promises of God for this life, and that which is to come.

- Saving faith expresses itself in different dimensions according to circumstance:
 - Obedience-
 - Trembling-
 - Embracing the Promises-

But the principal acts of saving faith are **accepting, receiving, and resting** upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

- Notitia-
- Assensus-
- Fiducia-

Section III. This faith is **different in degrees**, weak or strong;[may often and many ways **assailed, and weakened, but gets the victory**: growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance, through Christ, who is both the author and finisher of our faith.

- Sin and natural proclivities weaken faith (Heb. 12:1)-
- Assurance of Victory (1 John 5:4; Hebrews 12:2; Phil. 1:6)-
- Instruction of Christ (Rev. 2)-
- Example of Peter (John 6:66ff)-
- Application by Peter (1 Peter 1:6)-