

GraceLife Church Presents . . .

Soteriology

The Purpose,
Accomplishment, Plan, and
Application of Redemption

The Application of Redemption

Introduction

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

The Application of Redemption

Introduction

- ❖ Salvation is *by* grace.
 - ❖ The ultimate cause of salvation is grace.
 - ❖ The basis of salvation is grace.
 - ❖ Grace is the fountain head
 - ❖ Grace is the cause, salvation is the result.

The Application of Redemption

Introduction

- ❖ Salvation is *through* faith.
- ❖ The instrument of salvation is faith.
- ❖ The means through which salvation is distributed is faith.
- ❖ The channel grace uses to save is faith.
- ❖ The thing which takes one from A (unsaved) to B (saved) is faith.

The Application of Redemption

Introduction

- ❖ We can see the importance of faith then, because if one has been saved by grace they got there *through* faith.
- ❖ Where salvation exists faith exists.
- ❖ God's grace uses faith to bring one into the state of having been saved.
- ❖ We need to understand faith.

The Application of Redemption

Introduction

- ❖ Faith is also important because justification is *by* (Rom 3:28; 5:1; Gal 3:24), *through* (Gal 2:16), or *on* faith (Phil 3:9).
- ❖ We need to understand faith.

The Application of Redemption

Introduction

- ❖ Before we look at faith we should remember where we are in this series on the doctrine of salvation.
- ❖ Salvation began with God's plan before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4, etc.).
- ❖ Salvation was accomplished by Christ's atonement (life, death, and resurrection)
- ❖ Salvation is accomplished by the Holy Spirit in the lives of the elect in time.

The Application of Redemption

Introduction

- ❖ General call: The preaching of the gospel to sinners.
- ❖ Effectual call: The internal call which guarantees a response to the external call.
- ❖ Regeneration: The granting of spiritual life, begin born-again, made alive with Christ, etc.
- ❖ Conversion: The response of (regenerated) man to the gospel message involving repentance and faith.

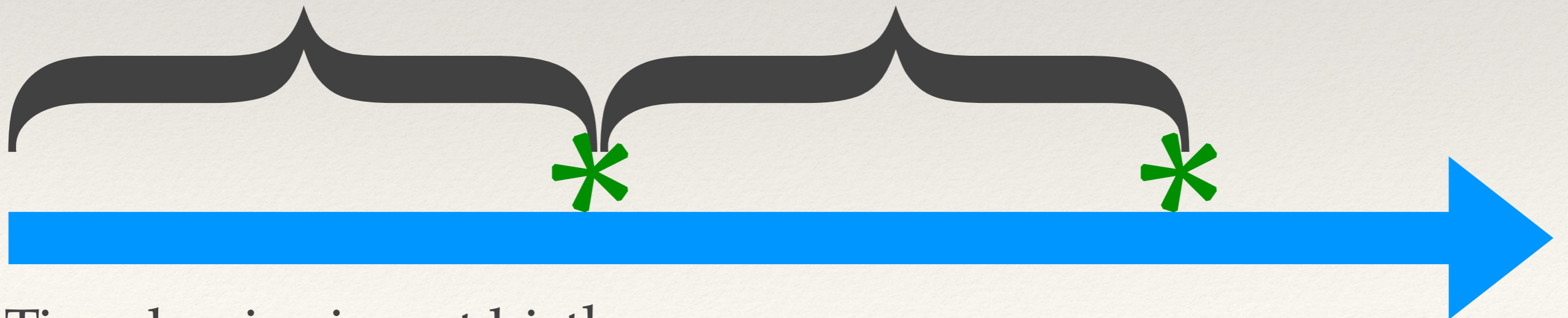
The Application of Redemption

Introduction

Chronological Order of Salvation

Effectual Call
Regeneration
Conversion

General Call Justification Sanctification Glorification



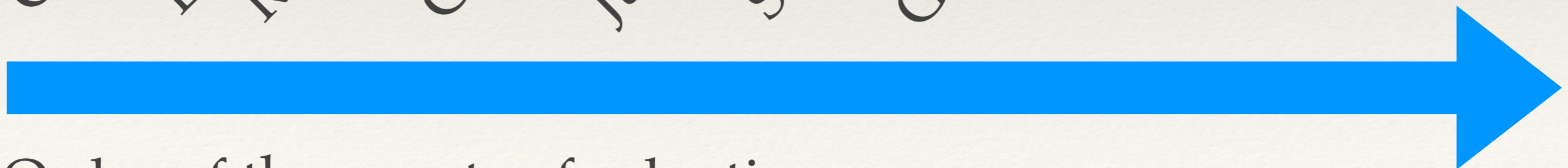
Time beginning at birth . . .

The Application of Redemption

Introduction

Logical Order of Salvation

General Call
Effectual Call
Regeneration
Conversion
Justification
Sanctification
Glorification



Order of the events of salvation . . .

The Application of Redemption

Conversion

“Conversion is our willing response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of sins and place our trust in Christ for salvation.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 307.

The Application of Redemption

Conversion

“It is impossible to disentangle faith and repentance. Saving faith is permeated with repentance and repentance is permeated with faith.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 119.

The Application of Redemption

Conversion

“Thus, the faith that saves is a repentant faith, just as the repentance that saves is a believing repentance.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 590.

The Application of Redemption

Conversion

- ❖ Conversion is made up of two interconnected realities that encompass our response to the gospel.
Repentance and Faith.
- ❖ Today we will focus on faith.

The Application of Redemption

Faith

- ❖ What is faith?
- ❖ What does faith believe? (What is the object of faith?)
- ❖ Examples of faith.
- ❖ True faith and false faith.
- ❖ What about doubt?
- ❖ Faith and perseverance.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

- ❖ Faith is so important because it is related to our salvation and our justification, but what exactly is faith and how does it work?

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

“What is this faith concerning which it is said, ‘By grace are ye saved through faith’ (Eph 2:8)? There are many descriptions of faith; but almost all the definitions I have met with have made me understand it less than I did before I saw them. . . . We may explain faith till nobody understands it. I hope I shall not be guilty of that fault.”

Charles Spurgeon, *All of Grace*, 59.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

“True saving faith is a faith that has its seat in the heart and is rooted in the regenerate life.”

Louis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*, 503.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

“Saving faith may be defined as a certain conviction, wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, as to the truth of the gospel, and a hearty reliance (trust) on the promises of God in Christ.”

Louis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*, 503.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

“Now we shall possess a right definition of faith if we call it a firm and certain knowledge of God’s benevolence toward us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ, both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit.”

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, ed. John T. McNeill, 551 (III.ii.7.).

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

“Saving faith is trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God.”

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 308.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

“What is faith? It is made up of three things—
knowledge, belief, and trust.”

Charles Spurgeon, *All of Grace*, 59.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

- ❖ Most seem to agree on these three basic elements of faith although they differ on what they call them.
- ❖ John Murray: “Knowledge, conviction, trust” (115).
- ❖ Wayne Grudem: “Knowledge, approval, personal trust” (*Bible Doctrine*, 307).
- ❖ Louis Berkof: “Intellectual element (*notitia*), emotional element (*assensus*), volitional element (*fiducia*) (503–5).
- ❖ John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue: “Knowledge, Assent, Trust” (596–98)

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

“Whereas repentance might be described as the negative aspect of conversion—that is, the act of turning away from sin—faith can be styled as the positive aspect, the soul’s turn *to* God and trusting in the person and work of Christ to provide forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life. As the miracle of the new birth banishes the blindness of spiritual death, the eyes of the sinner’s re-created heart look on the glory of Jesus and delight to find in him an utterly sufficient Savior, perfectly suited to cleanse from sin, provide perfect righteousness, and satisfy the soul. Beholding the glory of God in the face of Christ (cf. 2 Cor. 4:6), the sinner embraces Jesus with all his heart, entrusting and committing himself to all that Christ is.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 596.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

“Thus, saving faith is a fundamental commitment of the whole person to the whole Christ; with his mind, heart, and will the believer embraces Jesus as Savior, Advocate, Provider, Sustainer, Counselor, and Lord God.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 596.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

“Thus, like repentance, its counterpart, saving faith is consists of intellectual, emotional, and volitional elements: knowledge (Lat. *notitia*), assent (Lat. *assensus*), and trust (Lat. *fiducia*), respectively. The mind embraces knowledge, a recognition and understanding of the truth concerning the person and work of Christ. The heart gives assent, or the settled confidence and affirmation that Christ’s salvation is suitable to one’s spiritual need. The will responds with trust, the personal commitment to and appropriation of Christ as the only hope for eternal salvation. Each of these components requires further elaboration.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 596.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

“In speaking of the different elements of faith we should not lose sight of the fact that faith is an activity of man as a whole, and not of any part of man. Moreover, the soul functions in faith through ordinary faculties, and not through any special faculty. It is an exercise of the soul which has this in common with all similar exercises, that it appears simple, and yet on closer scrutiny is found to be complex and intricate. And therefore, in order to obtain a proper conception of faith, it is necessary to distinguish between the various elements which it comprises.”

Louis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*, 503.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Knowledge

- ❖ If faith is “a firm and certain knowledge of God’s benevolence toward us, founded upon the truth of the promise in Christ” then we must *know* something about that promise.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Knowledge

Rom 10:13 for “WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.” **14** How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Knowledge

“It might seem very confusing to say that faith is knowledge. For is [it] not one thing to know, another thing to believe? This is partly true. Sometime we must distinguish between faith and knowledge and place them in contrast to each other. But there is a knowledge that is indispensable to faith.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 115.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Knowledge

“I want to be informed of a fact before I can possibly believe it. . . We must first hear, in order that we may know what is to be believed.”

Charles Spurgeon, *All of Grace*, 59.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Knowledge

“Our Heidelberg Catechism assures us that true faith is among other things also ‘a *certain* (sure, incontestable) knowledge. This is in harmony with Heb 11:1 . . . [Faith] makes future and unseen things subjectively real and certain for the believer. The knowledge of faith is mediated for, and imparted to, us by the testimony of God in His word, and is accepted by us as certain and reliable on the basis of the veracity of God. The certainty of this knowledge has its warrant in God Himself, and consequently nothing can be more certain.”

Louis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*, 504.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Knowledge

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Knowledge

“We must know who Christ is, what he has done, and what he is able to do. Otherwise faith would be blind conjecture at the best and foolish mockery at the worst.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 116.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Knowledge

- ❖ The difficult question is, “what exactly must we *know* in order to believe rightly?”
- ❖ This is an impossible question.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Knowledge

“It is impossible to determine with precision just how much knowledge is absolutely required in saving faith. If saving faith is the acceptance of Christ as He is offered in the gospel, the question arises, How much of the gospel must a man know, in order to be saved? Or, to put it in the words of Dr. Machen:

“What, to put it baldly, are the minimum doctrinal requirements, in order that a man may be a Christian?” In general it may be said that it must be sufficient to give the believer some idea of the object of faith.”

Louis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*, 504.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Knowledge

- ❖ We will come back to this question of what we must believe when we speak about the object of faith.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Knowledge

“It is of the utmost importance, especially in our day, that the churches should see to it that their members have a fairly good, and not merely a hazy, understanding of the truth.”

Louis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*, 504.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Knowledge

Jas 2:19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Approval

- ❖ Knowledge is necessary but it is insufficient of itself.
- ❖ We must go beyond mere knowledge to agree that the message of truth is true.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Approval

“Faith is assent. We must not only know the truth respecting Christ but we must also believe it to be true.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 116.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Approval

“The conviction which enters into faith is not only an assent to the truth respecting Christ but also a recognition of the exact correspondence that there is between the truth of Christ and our deeds as lost sinners. . . . This is just saying that Christ’s sufficiency as Savior meets the desperateness and hopelessness of our sin and misery. It is the conviction which engages, therefore, our greatest interest and which registers the verdict: Christ is exactly suited to all that I am in my sin and misery and to all that I should aspire to be by God’s grace. Christ fits in perfectly to the totality of our situation in its sin, guilt, misery, and ill-desert.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 116.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Approval

Jas 2:19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Approval

Acts 26:27 “King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do.” **28** Agrippa *replied* to Paul, “In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.”

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Approval

John 2:23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. **24** But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, **25** and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

John 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; **2** this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Approval

“It is entirely possible to know the truth without believing or embracing the truth. Many preachers, scholars, and theologians have intellectually grasped great truths of Scripture, such as . . . —and yet fail to repent and trust in him themselves. For this reason, faith is said to have an emotional element as well as an intellectual element.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 597.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Approval

“Believe these truths [the gospel, Christ, God, Man, etc.] as you believe any other statements; for the difference between common faith and saving faith lies mainly in the subjects upon which it is exercised. Believe the witness of God just as you believe the testimony of your own father or friend. ‘If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater (1 John 5:9).”

Charles Spurgeon, *All of Grace*, 61.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Personal Trust

“Faith is knowledge passing into conviction, and it is conviction passing into confidence. Faith cannot stop short of self-commitment to Christ, a transference of reliance upon ourselves and all human resources to reliance upon Christ alone for salvation.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 117.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Personal Trust

“That is to say, saving faith moves beyond ‘believing *that*’ and arrives at ‘believing *in*’; it moves beyond mentally assenting to truth *about* Christ and arrives at personally trusting *in* Christ and depending *on* him for forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 599.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Personal Trust

*“Trust is often a better word to use in contemporary culture than the world *faith* or *belief*. The reason is that we can ‘believe’ something to be true with no personal commitment or dependence involved in it. . . . the word *faith* on the other hand, is sometimes used today to refer to an almost irrational commitment to something in spite of strong evidence to the contrary, a sort of irrational decision to believe something that we are quite sure is not true! In these two popular senses, *belief* and *faith* have a meaning contrary to the biblical sense.”*

Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, 308.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Personal Trust

“So far you have made an advance toward faith; only one more ingredient is needed to complete it, which is trust. Commit yourself to the merciful God; rest your hope on the gracious gospel; trust your soul to the dying and living Savior; wash away your sins in the atoning blood; accept His perfect righteousness, and all is well. Trust is the lifeblood of faith; there is no saving faith without it.”

Charles Spurgeon, *All of Grace*, 61–2.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Personal Trust

“Faith is not a blind thing; for faith begins with knowledge. It is not a speculative thing; for faith believes facts of which it is sure. It is not an unpractical, dreamy thing; for faith trusts, and stakes its destiny on the truth of revelation. . . Faith is believing that Christ is what He is said to be, and that He will do what He has promised to do, and then to expect this of Him.”

Charles Spurgeon, *All of Grace*, 62.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Personal Trust

“Faith, after all, is not belief of propositions of truth respecting the Savior, however essential an ingredient of faith such belief is. Faith is trust in a person, the person of Christ, the Son of God and Savior of the lost. It is entrustment of ourselves to him. It is not simply believing him; it is believing in him and on him.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 117.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Personal Trust

“The Reformers recognized that the essence of saving faith is to bring the sinner lost and dead in trespasses and sins into direct personal contact with the Savior himself, contact which is nothing less than that of self-commitment to him in all the glory of his person and perfection of his work as he is freely and fully offered in the gospel.”

John Murray, Redemption Accomplished and Applied, 117.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Personal Trust

“Finally, in this volitional aspect of faith, one not only trusts in Christ but also entrusts oneself *to* Christ, for believing in a person necessarily involves a personal commitment. The one who trusts Christ places himself in the custody of Christ for both life and death. The believer relies on the Lord’s counsel, trusts in his goodness, and entrusts himself for time and eternity to his guardianship. Saving faith, then, is the sinner in the whole of his being, embracing all of Christ.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 599.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Personal Trust

“That is why Scripture often uses such metaphors for faith as looking to him (John 3:14–15; cf. Num 21:9), eating his flesh and drinking his blood (John 6:50–58; cf 4:14), receiving him (John 1:12), and coming to him (Matt 11:28; John 5:40; 6:35, 37, 44, 65; 7:37–38). . . . One demonstrates his faith in Christ not merely by saying, ‘I believe!’ but by coming to Christ, receiving all that he is, and entrusting to him all that the believer is.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 599–600.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Personal Trust

“In summary, faith is leaning wholly on Christ—for redemption, for righteousness, for counsel, for fellowship, for sustenance, for direction, for succor, for his lordship, and for all in life that can truly satisfy.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 600.

The Application of Redemption

What is Faith?

Faith includes Personal Trust

- ❖ Faith knows Christ, believes the truth about his person and work, and then trust in him with all of who we are.
- ❖ That is what Calvin meant by a sure and certain knowledge.

The Application of Redemption

Faith in What?

“Now if this is the nature of saving faith, it does not much matter whether one describes it as knowledge or trust or as both in conjunction. For the knowledge as Calvin views it includes trust, and trust in turn is not possible without knowledge. The two do not just stand in juxtaposition . . . they are organically interconnected. In both of them what counts is the reception of Christ, a personal acceptance, not of a doctrine but of the person of Christ, as he is presented to us in the gospel.”

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4:130.

The Application of Redemption

Faith in What?

“Nothing more certainly inhibits a feeling than continual meticulous examination of the question [of] whether one has it. Rarely does this preoccupation produce anything other than a lament over one’s own ‘deadness.’ And even more than spontaneous feeling, it is spontaneous action that is inhibited by this continual introspection. The good seed cannot flourish when it is repeatedly dug up for the purpose of examining its growth. This preoccupation with religious experiences paralyzes the will. People become too occupied with themselves to attain to vigorous action.”

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4:131.

The Application of Redemption

Faith in What?

“We must maintain that faith and the life of faith is much too rich to be reduced to ‘naked assent’ (*nudus assensus*) to the article concerning the forgiveness of sins; it also essentially includes certainty. This certainty, which relates to both the objective grace of God in Christ and to the believer’s subjective participation in it, is not an external additive to faith but is in principle integral to it from the start. It is not obtained by looking at ourselves but by looking away from ourselves to Christ. It is grounded in the promises of God, not in changing experiences or imperfect good works.”

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4:131.

The Application of Redemption

Faith in What?

“It is to be remembered that the efficacy of faith does not reside in itself. Faith is not something that merits the favor of God. All the efficacy unto salvation resides in the Savior. As one has aptly and truly stated the case, it is not faith that saves but faith in Jesus Christ; strictly speaking, it is not even faith in Christ that saves but Christ saves through faith. Faith unites us to Christ in the bonds of abiding attachment and entrustment and it is this union which insures that the saving power, grace, and virtue of the Savior become operative in the believer. The specific character of faith is that it looks away from itself and finds its whole interest and object in Christ. He is the absorbing preoccupation of faith.”

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 117–18.

The Application of Redemption

Faith in What?

“Never make a Christ out of your faith, nor think of [it] as if it were the independent source of your salvation. Our life is found in ‘looking unto Jesus,’ not in looking to our own faith.”

Charles Spurgeon, *All of Grace*, 55.

The Application of Redemption

Faith in What?

“By faith all things become possible to us; yet the power is not in the faith, but in the God upon whom faith relies. Grace is the powerful engine, and faith is the chain by which the carriage of the soul is attached to the great motive power.”

Charles Spurgeon, *All of Grace*, 55.

The Application of Redemption

Faith in What?

“It needs to be in the foreground of our consciousness that all the benefits of salvation are secured by Christ and present in him and that he himself, as the Lord of heaven, is by his Spirit the one who distributes and applies them. Neither faith nor conversion is the condition that in any way acquires salvation for us. They are only the way in which the benefits of the covenant enter into the subjective possession of those for whom they were acquired.”

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4:122.

The Application of Redemption

Faith and Doubt

“Doubts and fears do certainly arise from time to time in the believer’s heart (Matt 8:25; 14:30; Mark 9:24), and believers must certainly fight against them throughout their lives. However, they can only wage that struggle and only prevail in that struggle by the power of the faith that holds on to God’s promise, rests in the completed work of Christ, and is thus by nature certain.”

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4:132.

The Application of Redemption

Faith and Doubt

“The peace within the soul is not derived from the contemplation of our own faith; but it comes to us from Him who is our peace, the hem of whose garment faith touches, and virtue comes out of Him into the soul.”

Charles Spurgeon, *All of Grace*, 55.

The Application of Redemption

Faith and Doubt

“Think more of *Him* to whom you look than of the look itself. You must look away even from your own looking, and see nothing but Jesus, and the grace of God revealed in Him.”

Charles Spurgeon, *All of Grace*, 56.

The Application of Redemption

Faith and Doubt

“Indeed, it is a very curious thing, this whole matter of believing; for people do not get much help by trying to believe. Believing does not come by trying. If a person were to make a statement of something that happened this day, I should not tell him I would try to believe him. If I believed in the truthfulness of the man who told the incident to me and said that he saw it, I should accept the statement at once. If I did not think him a true man, I should of course, disbelieve him; but there would be no trying in the matter. Now, when God declares that there is salvation in Christ Jesus, I must either believe Him at once, or make Him a liar.”

Charles Spurgeon, *All of Grace*, 56.

