

Scripture: John 1:11-14; 6:41-59

Singing: 395:1-4 – 92:1, 3, 5 – 386:1-3 – 429:2. 4

The Definition of Saving Faith (#4)

Intro: Who are Christ's sheep? (John 10:26-27)

*God effectually calls all whom He has elected, so that the sheep of Christ are **proved by their faith in Christ**. (Calvin)*

A. The act of faith is described in various *acts* of the body

1. John 6:53-54: *the act of spiritual eating and drinking of Jesus' Gospel*

a. His *flesh and blood* refer to His Gospel message

2. 2 Sam. 22:3; Ps. 31:1: *the act trusting or taking refuge to Jesus Christ*

a. sensing no other refuge against the provoked Law, pursuit of justice, the unbearable punishment, are you fleeing to Christ's cover?

3. Is. 45:22; John 3:15: *the act of looking unto Christ*

a. observe Is. 45:21b: *God is a 'just God and a Savior'* (Rom. 4:5)

b. what is to *look unto Christ*?

c. to look emphasizes the *ease of salvation*: a look of faith to Him saves!

4. John 6:35; Matt. 11:28: *the act of coming to Jesus Christ*

a. the Lord calls us all as we face *needs* we can't supply

b. What is coming to Him and are *you* coming to Him?

5. John 1:12-13: *the act of receiving Jesus Christ*

*We believe that to attain the true knowledge of this great mystery
the Holy Ghost kindles in our hearts an upright faith,
which embraces Jesus Christ with all His merits,
appropriates Him,
and seek nothing more besides Him. (Con. Art 22)*

*And therefore, we always hold fast this foundation,
Ascribing all the glory to God,
Humbling ourselves before Him,
And acknowledging ourselves to be such as we really are
Without presuming to trust in anything ourselves
Or in any merit of ours,
Relying and resting upon the obedience of Christ crucified alone,
Which becomes ours
when we believe in Him (Con. Art 23)*

1. Christ is kindly inviting and urging you to receive Him: Prov. 8:4-6

2. the Spirit is striving with your spirit to receive Him: Heb. 3:7-19

3. what is to receive? (John 1:12-13; Col. 2:6)

a. to receive Him is to believe (trust/entrust) in Him

● M. Henry: *to receive or believe on His Name is to assent to Gospel discovery of Christ & consent to Gospel proposal concerning Christ*

4. Have you receive His offer of Himself and all His benefits?

Final observations: Lord, I believe, help thou my unbelief!

A. All true believers will experience the struggle with fears and doubts

B. True believers are not saved because of the *quality of their faith!* (2 Tim 1:12)