

Scripture: Romans 4:23-5:21
Singing: 241:1, 2, 5 – 88:1-3 – 103:1-4 – 83:1-3

Lord's Day 23.60

THE JOYFUL CONFESSION OF FAITH
I. WHO IS SPEAKING? II. WHAT IS CONFESSED?

I. WHO IS SPEAKING?

- A. A poor and needy sinner coming short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)
- B. Yet not just a sinner but a sinner believing in Jesus
1. His confession: *I am righteous before God only by a true faith in Jesus Christ*
 - a. what is missing when true faith in Jesus Christ is missing?

 - b. what is true even you have true faith in Jesus? (Rom. 3:22; 4:3; 4:24)

II. WHAT IS CONFESSED?

A. That though a true believer, he still is a big sinner

1. He has not 'arrived' at *being righteous*

2. Instead he is admitting amazing revelation about himself
 - a. about his past life and about his present condition

3. Can this be really a child of God talking? (Romans 7:14ff)

B. That as a believer in Jesus, he is righteous before God or justified by God

1. How did he reach that standard or on what ground justified?
 - a. not through merit – qualifying himself

2. His answer: I reached that standard *through Christ whom I embraced by faith*
 - a. hear God's declarations: Romans 3:24, 28; 4:5; 4:22-25; 5:1

 - b. God declares this about *every believer in Jesus Christ*
 - that you are righteous through imputation

 - that your sins and Christ's righteousness exchanged: 2 Cor. 5:21

C. That as a believer in Jesus, he is secured in Christ as an heir of eternal life

1. Eternal life is **only** obtained when I live a perfect life (Gen. 2)

2. Is confessing "I am heir of eternal life" result of being deceived or blind?
 - a. no: *it is based on God's provision in Jesus Christ* when embraced with a believing heart
 - when (Adam's) sin abounded, grace (in the last Adam) did much

more abound (Romans 5:20)

b. Gospel is that *God looks NOW upon the believer in His Son as if he had fully accomplished all the obedience required in the covenant of works*

- There is no greater security than to be in Christ by faith.

Close: How will you go home this evening?

A. Some of us will go home rejoicing in confession that HS made already yours!

B. Some go home doubting whether such a benefit of *just* is offered to you!

C. Some go home dismissing this confession as too simple!

D. Some go home indifferent, unconcerned, un-responding, and forgetting!

GOLDEN TRUTHS AROUND JUSTIFICATION

Conversion and assurance of faith are not the final stages of the Christian life but in actuality the beginning of real growth of spiritual life.

Mirror of spiritual life is not 'Have you experienced this or that – how much sense of sin do you have – how deep and long are your convictions.' The mirror of real spiritual life is your faith in God and His Son Jesus Christ.

The danger with mystical experiences that some know about is that they pure put into place of the simple and genuine faith in Jesus.