

Scripture: Isaiah 40:9-31 Belgic Confession art. 1 (1)

Singing: 306:1-4 – 308:1-3 – 417:1-3 -- 282:1-4

Intro: The Belgic Confession is a *confession of faith*

A. Knowing Biblical truth is important but not saving in itself (Lord's Day 7.21)

B. The Belgic Confession ought to be/become your personal confession of faith

C. Approach these studies with Isaiah 8:13-14 in view

1. Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself:
2. Let Him be your fear and let Him be your dread:
3. He shall be for a sanctuary:
4. Or a stone of stumbling or rock of offence:

D. Know that He reveals Himself to allure us to Himself (Is. 54-55)

1. He calls your attention to Himself: *I said, Behold Me, behold Me, unto a nation that was not called by my name.*" (Is. 65:1)
2. He offers Himself to be your Husband: *"Incline your ear; and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."* (Is. 55:3)

E. Come then under His Word *praying that you may learn to know Him rightly and confess Him gladly for both is eternal life (John 17:3)*

Our faith in our God means we trust ...

- I. That our God exists
- II. That our God is One God
- III. That our God is a simple and spiritual Being
- IV. That our God is the sum of all perfections
- IV. That our God not simply good but an overflowing fountain of all good

I. Our faith in our God holds that our God exists

A. The confession starts where the Bible starts: *In the beginning God ...*

1. Bible doesn't explain God's origin because He has no beginning (Heb. 7:3a)
2. God never calls us to understand Him (Job 11:7-9; Ps. 145:3; Is. 40:28)
3. Yet calls us to trust Him (Is. 40:31)
4. Our entire study of each article needs remain rooted in article 1

B. To deny God's existence is nothing but plain foolish: Ps. 14:1

1. Plenty of people tell us that to believe God exists is mind-game
2. Why is to deny God's existence foolish?
 - a. to be able to assert this you must be able to prove it

b. by denying that God exist, the fool denies *what speaks loud within*

- Rom. 1:18-25

Reflection: Do you trust, are you committed and devoted to our God?

A. How does your *faith in God's existence* function – shape – direct your life?

1. Do you see Him as a distant Being watching bad things happen?
2. Do you see Him as Divine Servant to fulfill your whims and wishes?
3. Do you struggle to believe in Him just and powerful God because the world is filled with injustice and suffering?
4. Do you have something of the faith of Paul as worded in 2 Tim. 1:11-12?
*I am appointed a preacher (...) for the which cause I also **suffer** these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know **Whom** I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him until that day.*