

**The 1689 Confession; Chapter 14 – “Of Saving Faith”, Para 2, Session # 13 –
“Committing Your Soul to Christ”, Presented in the Adult Sunday School Class,
by Pastor Paul Rendall on January 18th, 2026.**

Toward the end of Paragraph 2 it says – But the principal acts of saving faith have immediate relation to Christ, accepting, receiving, and resting upon him alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.

This morning we will be continuing our consideration of what it means to rest upon Christ alone for salvation.

1. Resting upon Christ by virtue of the covenant of grace.

Hebrews 13: 20 & 21 – “Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Question # 5 – What truths in these two verses do we rest upon because we are trusting in our Lord Jesus Christ with saving faith?

Answer: We rest upon the truth that God has established peace between ourselves and Himself through what He has done through Christ and His shedding His precious blood for our souls. Since Christ purchased our redemption there, the Father brought Him up from the dead, thus establishing Him as the great Shepherd of us, the sheep, based upon the fact that in the everlasting covenant plans and provision was made for this. We rest in the fact that because Christ has accomplished redemption and has given us His Holy Spirit to abide with us forever, that we shall be made complete in every good work to do His will. His grace covers us, and His grace makes us complete in relation to every good work that we go about to do, in order to do His good will. He works in us that which is well pleasing in His sight, through our Lord Jesus Christ. And so, to the Triune God belongs glory forever and ever! We rest in His good and perfect work on our behalf, and in our hearts.

Psalms 37: 3-7 – “Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.”

Question # 6 – What things are listed here in regard to your exercising faith in living your life to God, and becoming His faithful servant?

Answer: When you are trusting in the Lord you will be seeking to do good. You will be content where God has placed you in life, and you will learn to feed upon His faithfulness in terms of His giving you grace and peace to do what He commands. You will delight yourself in the Lord so that He will give you the desires of your heart in terms of doing His good will, and glorifying Him in your everyday life. You will commit your way to Him, all of your concerns for what you want to do and to become as a person. And you will trust that in time He will bring it about. In relation

to doing what is right, other people may speak against you, and even persecute you, but God knows how to bring forth your righteousness as the light and your justice as the noonday. Your responsibility is to rest in Him, and to seek all of your peace and comfort from abiding in Christ and doing God's will with a right attitude. And you should not fret over things but rather be prayerful and hopeful that He will bring about good things to resolve whatever difficulties and trials that you may be going through.

2. Saving Faith is directly related to believing on Christ, resting your soul on Him in this Saving Way.

1st Peter 2: 6 – Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.’

Question # 7 – What does it mean to believe “on” Christ and why will you not be put to shame if you do so?

Answer: Mark Sarver says – “This phrase portrays a tranquil repose on Christ, sometimes represented as resting on a rock or cornerstone (1st Peter 2: 6, Acts 11: 17, and 16: 31) Trusting in Christ is resting on Him with your whole weight; it is falling down and lying on the Rock of Ages.” I myself would say that believing on Christ is your consciously spiritually placing the whole weight of your soul (so to speak) upon the Biblical truth of Christ Himself, that He is both God and Man, and that He died for a sinner like you. You are resting the weight of your soul upon His finished work of righteousness and sufferings. Even as it says in Acts 16: 31 – Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.

3. Faith is Commitment to the Christ of the Gospel.

Dr. Sam Waldron says in his Modern Exposition of the 1689 Confession – “Faith on the other hand, is commitment to the Christ of the Gospel. Commitment here means the act of entrusting ourselves to Christ. John Murray’s excellent remarks crystallize the matter: ‘Faith must rise to trust, and to trust that consists in entrustment to Him. In faith there is the engagement of person to person in the inner movement of the whole man to receive and rest upon Christ alone for salvation. It means the abandonment of confidence in our won or any human resources in a totality act of self-commitment to Christ.’”

Waldron goes on to say: “Faith is the believing abandonment of ourselves to Christ against all issues. Faith is the believing abandonment of every hope and the consigning of our whole destiny into the hand of Jesus Christ.”

He then gives four considerations which indicate that faith means commitment.

A. “The use of the Greek word which is usually translated “believe” to mean entrust or commit indicates that believing involves an act of commitment. Note, for instance, the play on words found in John 2: 23-25.”

John 2: 23-25 – “Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man for He knew what was in man.”

Question # 8 – It says here that many believed in His name when they saw the signs that Jesus did. But then it says that Jesus did not commit Himself to them. If they were believing in Him, then why did Jesus not commit or entrust Himself to them?

Answer: Jesus did not commit Himself to them because He saw their hearts perfectly. He knew that even though they were impressed with His miracles, that they still did not themselves see that they needed to be saved from their sins. They believed in His name because of the miracles, but this did not mean that they would commit to receiving Him for salvation or following Him as His disciples. It takes the work of the New Birth by the Holy Spirit to come to the place where this commitment, this entrusting of oneself to Christ, takes place.

B. “The frequent occurrence of the phrase ‘believe into’ conveys the idea of commitment (John 2: 11, 3: 16, 18, & 36; John 4: 39; John 6: 29). Murray remarks that this phrase “bears the notion of ‘movement towards’. B.B. Warfield says – “In any event, what these passages express is an absolute transference of trust from ourselves to another, a complete self surrender to Christ.”

C. The frequent occurrence of the phrase “believe upon” (Luke 24: 25) conveys the idea of reliance and thus of the entrusting commitment which resting upon Christ implies. The disturbance of the soul experienced by the disciples is contrasted with ‘believing upon’ the prophets in Luke 24: 25. It is the opposite of the calm reliance which such faith would have given them.”

Luke 24: 25 – “Then He said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!’”

Question # 9 – Is it possible for disciples who love Christ and who want to follow Him closely, to be foolish and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken concerning Christ Himself?

Answer: Yes, it is, for Christ went on to tell them in verse 26 – “Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

D. “The analogies or illustrations used in parallel with believing show that faith is more than a mere persuasion of truth and involves an act of the will. In John 1: 12 believing is parallel with receiving Christ and contrasted with rejecting His claims, (cf. vs. 11). In John 3: 36 believing is the opposite of skeptical refusal to obey Christ and allow His claims to rule our life. In John 6: 35 and 64, 65, believing is coming to Christ, availing ourselves of the provision made for us and our salvation by Him. In John 6: 47-51, and 53 believing is eating the bread of life and drinking His blood. It is thus a personal appropriation of the provision made by Christ for our spiritual needs. The common element in each of these analogies is that believing involved an act of the will. It is reception, obedience, coming, appropriation. Faith is a conviction which moves us to an appropriate response. It is not the merely passive persuasion of our intellect. It is not mere assent to certain doctrines. It is a whole-souled conviction of the truth leading to a commitment to the Christ of the gospel.”

