

Belgic Confession, Article 22, “Justifying Faith”

Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 2:1-10

Lesson Aim	To understand three things: First, what justifying faith is. Second, where faith comes from and how it is given. Three, what faith accomplishes.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Article 22 and Ephesians 2:1-10 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>Justifying faith is true biblical faith. But how do we define faith? True faith, according to the Heidelberg Catechism, question and answer 21, has knowledge, assent and trust. Knowledge includes what God has revealed in the Scriptures with respect to himself, his Christ and salvation. Assent is the acknowledgement of the truth of the content of God’s revelation. Trust is embracing fully the promises of God related to Christ and the salvation he has worked for us.</p> <p>Faith always has an object. What is the object of our faith? Jesus Christ and his work to be crucified, buried and raised from the dead.</p> <p>Where does faith come from? Faith comes from God as a gift.</p> <p>Where is the Scriptures does it say that faith is a gift of God? Ephesians 2:8-9.</p> <p>How does God give faith to his people? The Heidelberg Catechism, question and answer says: “The Holy Spirit works faith in our hearts by the preaching of the Gospel, and confirms it by the use of the Holy Sacraments.</p> <p>What does faith accomplish? Nothing by itself. It is only an instrument through which God has us grasp the perfect work of Jesus Christ to obey the Father. When we have faith in Jesus Christ alone, we are justified, that is, righteous in God’s sight because of the imputation of Christ’s righteousness to us.</p>
Bible Reading	1 Samuel 1-7 (covering the great Bible stories)