

Devotion.
26 January 2017

Faith and faithfulness (2)

As Protestants, and as Presbyterians, we are familiar with the phrase that we are saved through “faith alone”. But we may ask, and must ask, what kind of faith will save us?

The faith that saves cannot be explained other than in the light of faithfulness. The story of our faith is the story of Jesus, the faithful Messiah.

Nowhere in the New Testament do we read about a faith through which we become children of God without an intimate relationship with Jesus. And Jesus is more than the One we believe in. Only in and through Jesus can we own true Christian faith. It is only because Jesus Christ has “done it all” that the sinner’s faith is possible and is a saving response to God’s offer of salvation.

Being followers of Christ, through faith, implies following him faithfully and reflecting his faithfulness till the end and to the cross. The Bible says that faith involves “*looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith*” (Hebrews 12:2).

When Christian faith matures, the story of faith is completed when we see that God’s faithfulness is reflected in the faithfulness of the people of God.

The question always arises, what *kind of faith does God require?*

The traditional answer from the time of the Reformation has been to point out that true faith is proven to exist, by faithfulness. It is much more than intellectual consent to the facts of the story of Jesus. It is a *heartfelt trust* in God and his promises of salvation and eternal life as found in the Gospel.

This means that having the “only faith that saves” always results in being practically faithful in serving Christ with his people, in his Church, at worship, at his Table and in his service, all the time!