

A silhouette of a person is shown on the left side of the frame, holding their head with one hand, suggesting a state of distress or deep thought. The background is a bright sunset or sunrise over a dark horizon, with the sun positioned in the upper center. The overall mood is contemplative and somber.

TRUTH YOU MUST BELIEVE

Introduction

God has revealed Himself in His Word, the Bible. This is absolutely infallible and contains all we need to know about how we must glorify God and how we may be saved. This booklet provides a brief summary of some of these essential biblical truths.

True saving faith has three elements: knowledge, belief and trust. “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?” (Romans 10:14). We must first know what the Scriptures teach about God and man, sin and salvation. Faith comes “by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

It is not blind trust or a leap in the dark. Sometimes people say that we trust in a Person (i.e. Christ), not truths or doctrines about the Person. True saving faith certainly involves trust but we also need to know about the One in whom we have believed (2 Timothy 1:12). The more true knowledge that we have about Him, the deeper and fuller will be our trust in Him.

“Accurate knowledge about the biblical truths of salvation is not enough to save us in itself. There must be inward trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and his work of redemption alone for salvation”

Accurate knowledge about the biblical truths of salvation is not enough to save us in itself. Saving faith is inward trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and His work of redemption alone. Christ Jesus is a “Prophet to reveal all saving knowledge to his people and to persuade them to believe and obey it” (see below).

This booklet summarises vital truths about God and man, sin and salvation under four headings. A clear understanding of such truths is essential.

1. Man’s Ruin by Sin;
2. God’s Remedy by Redemption;
3. How God’s Remedy is Applied; and
4. How God’s People are Changed.

The booklet has been extracted and updated from a document called *The Sum of Saving Knowledge*. It was written by James Durham and David Dickson during the time of the Second Reformation in Scotland. This was the greatest spiritual revival ever seen in Scotland. It was also a period of radical reformation and rediscovery of Biblical truth.

The Sum had a prominent place in Scotland in previous generations as a way of expressing saving truth. It is a practical summary of key doctrines from the Westminster Confession of Faith and Shorter and Larger Catechisms. These are themselves faithful summaries of what the Scriptures teach. After reading this booklet you can rediscover these documents and *The Sum of Saving Knowledge* for yourself. You will find great benefit from studying them carefully.

Redemption Applied

The covenant was made before the world began and it was certain that it would be accomplished. Thus Christ has been continually engaged in the work of applying these purchased benefits to His chosen people.

He applies redemption by engaging His people in a covenant of free grace and reconciliation through faith in Himself. By this covenant He transfers to every believer a right and claim to Himself and all His blessings. Christ Jesus is invested with the offices of Prophet, Priest and King. In these offices He has accomplished the everlasting covenant and administers it to His people.

- *a Prophet* to reveal all saving knowledge to His people and to persuade them to believe and obey it.
- *a Priest* to offer up Himself as a sacrifice once and forever for all His people. As a Priest He also intercedes continually with the Father to make them and their service acceptable to God.
- *a King* to subdue them to Himself, to feed them and rule them by His own appointed ordinances and to defend them from their enemies.

How God's Remedy is applied

"Many are called"
Matthew 22:14

There are outward means of grace and ordinances appointed by God for making men able to partake of the covenant of grace. God bestows these wisely so that those chosen to salvation shall be inevitably converted and saved by them. Those not chosen for salvation who have access to these means are still without lawful excuse. The means of grace are as follows:

1. Word of God

By the Lord's sent messengers He makes a free offer of grace to all sinners on condition of faith in Jesus Christ. Whoever confesses their sin, accepts Christ freely offered to them and submits to His commands are to be received into the honour and privileges of the covenant of grace together with their children.

2. Sacraments

God seals and confirms the covenant made with His people by means of the sacraments. The covenant of grace is substantially one and the same during the times of the Old Testament (before Christ came) and New Testament (after He came). The outward administration was different in the Old Testament

as the covenant was sealed with the sacraments of circumcision and the Pass-over lamb. Such bloody sacrifices and rituals portrayed Christ's future death together with the benefits that it purchased.

Since Christ came, the covenant is now sealed by the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. These clearly hold out to us before our very eyes Christ already crucified, victorious over death and the grave and gloriously ruling heaven and earth for the good of His own people.

3. Church Government

God uses church government to keep believers hedged into the right path and helped forward to keep the covenant.

4. Prayer

God purposes that His own glorious grace (promised in the covenant) should be daily drawn out, acknowledged and made use of by prayer.

God uses these outward ordinances by the power of His Spirit. He effectually applies to His chosen people all the saving graces purchased for them by Jesus Christ in the everlasting covenant and changes them inwardly



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