学习加尔文《基督教要义》计老师谈"信"神学导论团契学习:第九课阅读材料 009B根据 2022.12.11(12)录音记录

新约是希腊文写的。"信"这个字义里面,给大家一个稍微核心的观念,就是从希腊文字义的角度作为一个简单的介绍。

我们常常认为信心就是,就如我发现一些基督徒说: "我相信神",并且认为,我这个相信就是信心。这个说法又好像对;但,又不够完全。所以,我从字义角度慢慢地说,请大家注意这个信心,"信",这个字,它的演变。

"信"这个字在希腊文是 pistis;如果没有记得希腊文没有关系,但是要知道它的字根字源是来自于动词 peitho。peitho 的意思是"劝而信之、说而服之",就是"说服";按照 Vine 和 Strong 的定义,英文就是 to persuade 或 to convince。To persuade 或 to convince 的意思就是:我去说服某个人,我劝某个人来相信我所说的。peitho 这个字是"信"的字根;就是从这个字根衍生出来"信心"这个字,或说"信"这个字,这个是名词的这个"信",pistis。所以按照 Strong 给出的定义,什么是"信"?信就是一种劝而信之、说而服之的这一件事情(persuasion)。所以中文代表字用的是"劝信说(shui)服",或"劝信说(shuo)服"。这一个观念是很重要的。

在这个基础上,从名词的"信"(pistis)再衍生出动词的"相信"(pisteuo)。换句话说,我一旦有一个"信",一个"信心",我把这个"信"放置在某一个对象上,这个就叫作"相信"。希望大家注意到三层的关系:名词的"信"是在中间,它的字根来源是一个动词 peitho,表达"说服"的意思:我去说服某个人;这个说服的动作的实际叫作 pistis,就是我们所说的"信";然后一旦我被说服,有了一个"信"之後,我把这个"信"放置在一个对象上,这是希腊文的动词 pisteuo ,表达"相信"。所以希腊文的相信,不只是去相信某件事情,而是去把我的信任、信赖、信心放置在这个人身上;所以它有一种信靠的含义。

回到"信心"上面,因为"信",它是劝而信之、说而服之,与刚才一开始讲到的一一华人信徒常常认为:我相信神,我相信耶稣基督,我相信圣经,这个相信就是信心一一来比较,要注意到这两者的差别:如果我"相信"就是信心的话,当我们这么去领会这个信心的时候,这个信心就是我相信神。但,说"我相信神"的时候,谁是主角?谁是主体?是"我"!因为是"我"相信。所以我们常常有一种错觉,在这一种的认识当中,"信心"就是"我"愿不愿意去相信,或是"我"决定去相信。可是按照希腊文的字义,"信"这个字真正的含义,按 Strong 的定义,是一个 persuasion,就是一个劝而信之,说而服之。换句话说,我,这个信心,严格说,就是我被劝信说服了,我被说服了。比起"我相信神",而"我被神劝而信之,说而服之"的主体就不一样了。"我相信神"这种信心,是以"我"为主体;但是,如果我们认识到"劝而信之,说而服之",信心本来是表达一种劝信说服的话,这个主角就不是"我"了,因为我是被劝信说服的,而能劝信说服我的则是神,或者说,是祂所启示的真理,使得我被劝信说服;以至于"信"的主体不再是"我",而是在乎"神"。这个观念在我们认识基督教"信仰",认识这个救恩的"信"的时候,是非常重要的。信心不是"我"去相信什么;信心是因为"神",因为祂

的作为,因为祂的话语,我被劝信说服了;这个是"信"。一旦我被劝信说服了以后,以 至我里面产生了一个主观的坚信;然后这个坚信也就是用"信心"这个字来表达出来了。

但是,同样"信"这个字,也可以表达那一个使得我被劝信说服、使得我相信的那个实体。这也就是为什么在希腊文当中,"信"这个字在和合本中大概有 20 次被翻译成为"真道",也就是我们中文所说的一个"信仰",一个"信"。客观的一个信仰的内容一一真道,就是用"信"这同一个字表达的。所以,按照上下文,这也就是为什么我们刚才看到加尔文的基督教要义当中,很多地方,这个"信仰",你把它读成"信心"的时候,感受会是不太一样的。但是在英文翻译,表达"信心"和"信仰" 都是用 faith,因为原文的 pistis,就是用来表达一种主观的信心,并且这同一个字也可以表达客观的信仰,或者和合本将之翻译为"真道"。

除此以外,同样的 pistis 这一个字也被翻成"信实"。信实的意思就是表达这个"信"在人心里面所产生出来的品格、品质。我们晓得,事实上,这个"信"就是圣灵的果子:仁爱、喜乐、和平、忍耐、恩慈、良善、信实、温柔、节制。这里的"信实",原文就是 pistis;这个"信"就是圣灵在我们里面产生的果实。所以从字义的角度,请大家一定要注意:如果我们把信心只当作是我相信什么,那么就只是以我为主体;但如果我们认识到"希腊文的信是一个 persuasion,是一个劝信说服"的话,那就不是以我作主体,而是那一个劝信说服的那一位——神,或者基督,或者神的话语,祂是主体,而我不过是被劝信说服而已。所以这个"信"事实上是有对象的,而且它是以我们对神的认识,对基督的认识为基础;这个认识使得我们被劝信说服。所以,我们从这个角度里就可以了解,为什么加尔文在那里讲到,这个信心是有对象的。

不但如此,我们要注意到,因为信是一个劝信说服,我们有时候听到人说:"哎呀,不要问这么多吗!信心吗,你问这么多干吗!只要相信就好了"。"只要相信就好了",这句话看起来好像是单纯的信,可是它跟盲目的信之间的差别是很模糊的。换句话说,这种信一不小心就会变成一种盲目的信心——盲信。为什么林牧师在这之前会提到信心和理性是不可分割的?就是因为我们华人教会有个传统——反理性的传统,以为"信心"就是要凭着信心,不要去想那么多,不要去用理性或知识,因为知识是叫人自高自大的。可是我们晓得,信这个字,信心这个字,它就是一种劝信说服;正因为它是一种劝信说服,就不可能与理性分开来的。劝信说服就是一个理性的作为之后的结果:因为我听见了这个福音,这个福音在理性的运作之下,我被劝信说服,以至于我产生了一个主观的坚信。

"信"这个字,不但表达了那一个劝信说服我的真道,也就是信仰,同时也表达了我从这个真道在我里面产生的劝信说服而有的一个主观的坚信,就是信心。在希腊文中,这都是同一个字表达的。只是我们中文当中,按着上下文分成了信心、信仰的时候,给我们华人的感觉,信心是我主观的,信仰是一个客观的,我们会很下意识地把它分成两件事情。但是在原文和英文都是同一个字。

这个是从字义当中希望大家一定要注意到这样的本质。如果我们认识到信是一种劝信说服的话,那我们就晓得这一个信心当中的主角,最主要的一位不是我,乃是神,或是基督,或是神的话语。正因为信是一个劝信说服,所以它必然是以理性为基础,就是圣经所说的:信道是从听道而来的;按照原文,信是从听来的,听是从基督的话而来的(罗10:17)。所以,信必然是从基督的话,经过理性——我们仔细听,有耳可听的听到了,然后我们被劝信说服了,我们才有这一个真实的信。在这个基础上,我们看到加尔文基督教要义中,我们就会了解到,他所告诉我们的这个信:信是一定有它的对象,这个对象就

是神;可是关于我们对神的认识,神既然是住在人不能靠近的光里,人怎么来认识这位不能够靠近的光呢?这就必须是要透过一个来到世界的光!基督就是这个中保,我们是要透过了基督,才能够去认识神。所以,什么是生命?生命不但是认识祢独一的真神,还要加上,并且认识祢所差来的耶稣基督(约17:3)。我们的信一定是有一个对象,不但是对象,而且祂是我们信心的主体;不是我去相信祂,而是因着祂,使得我被劝信说服。这个劝信说服,在我里头产生一种坚信,所以这个信是一个 persuasion,是一个劝信说服。请大家一定要注意。

事实上,我们之所以能信,是因为神赐给了我们,为我们提供了这个信。使徒行传 17 章讲到:神已经定了日子,要按照祂所设立的人按公义审判天下,所以神就先让祂从 死里复活,给万民提供了一个可信的凭据。原文的意思:神叫祂从死里复活,给万民提供 了一个"信"。所以我们的信,是神为我们提供了这个劝信说服的基础,而耶稣基督祂被 称作是信心的创始者和成终者。创始者,给我们一个错觉——是祂创造的;其实原文的意思,这个字不是一个创造开始的意思,而是:祂是那一位最主要来引导我们的这一位;这 个字和合本翻译成创始者。所以信的基础是神藉着基督的复活给我们提供的,而信的最主要的引导者是我们的主耶稣基督。所以我们知道信心的主角,绝不是我相信、我决定要信,而是神劝信说服我。所以信心,因为是一个劝信说服,它是与理性是不可分割的;这是加尔文基督教要义的 3.2.2 中提到的:信心是建立在知识上,而不是在敬虔的无知上。信心绝对不会是一个盲目的信。

然后,加尔文又批判了罗马天主教的信心观。因为罗马天主教的信心观就是:你只要去承认接受相信教会提供给你的教义,这就是信心了。加尔文严厉地批判这种信心观是一种虚假的信心观;它不是建筑在一个真正对神话语的理解,只不过是接纳了教会的教导(这里的教会特别是指的罗马天主教的教会)。我们知道罗马天主教在那时候关于赎罪券,关于炼狱的教义,其实都是违背圣经的教义。所以那种方式所建立的信心,就是只是同意教会的信仰,那种信心不是真信心。何况我们每一个人,因着我们的有限,我们自己也在自己的有限中,这是在加尔文基督教要义的 3. 2. 4:我们常常也会被我们自己的错误和不信包围。所以加尔文提到了一个默信;並且指出,默信,其实严格地说,它是信心的雏形,信心的准备,但它本身并不足以让人达到得救的地步。所以在神学里面讨论的时候,论到信心,常常谈到一种叫人得救的信心,saving faith,但是那种 implicit faith,就是默信的本身,只是一个很初期的信,就好像人看到耶稣行的一个神迹,他们相信了,但耶稣却不把自己交托给他们(约 2:23-24)。他们的那个信心,只不过是在一种初期萌芽的阶段,但并没有真正从那个信心产生出一种对基督的"信任信靠",而这种信任信靠是"信"当中非常重要的要素。所以 3. 2. 6 中,加尔文就让我们晓得,信心最主要是依靠神的话。

但是,就神的话而言,不是所有神的话,都会让我们产生对神的仰慕。因为神的话语中,有很多严厉的审判等等,就像加尔文说的,会让我们躲避这位神。所以加尔文就重新定义,到底是神什么样的话语,使得我们会被神所吸引,而向着祂来呢?所以他就特别把论到神的仁爱、怜悯、慈悲这样子的话语提出来。换句话说,因着神的怜悯、慈悲带来的基督的救赎工作基础上的应许,来成为我们信心仰望的对象。所以这就是为什么说信是"所望之事的实底,未见之事的确据"(来 11:1)。这里所盼望的是什么呢?就是根据神的话语,在基督救赎的基础上,神对我们那种救赎恩典的旨意。所以信是所望之事的实底。

所以,在这里加尔文给信心一个相当不错的定义——虽然这个定义不是圣经的定义,而是在解经的基础上所提出来的,但是把三一神都放在这个地方:信心是对神的仁爱的一种不变而确实的认识;这种认识是以基督白白应许的真实为基础,并藉着圣灵向我们的思想,换句话说,是向我们的理性所启示;不但启示,也因着圣灵的工作,在我们心里所证实,如同印记一样,这时候在我们里面产生了一个完全的坚信。这是加尔文对信心的定义。

传道人讲信心

神学家,包括系统神学的神学家里面谈"信"的时候,到目前为止我还没有看到一位去应用像 Strong、Vine 在字义上面提出对信心这么重要的一个认识,就是信心是一个persuasion 这样的认识。只有约翰慕理(John Murray)在谈到罗马书当中的时候,他间接地指出,但没有给予原因,为什么信心不是好像我们去相信什么,而是一种相对的是我们被说服了的《注:约翰慕理在罗马书三章的注释指出:信心特别的性质是对他者的信任及委身;在本质上是外在感知性的(extraspective),並且在这个层面上它是与工作相对的;信心是自我否认的,工作是自我庆贺的;信心在注视神所做的,工作则看重我们是什么。》。而这是信的一个实际的含义。

所以信的重点不是在于我,而在于神,在于神的话语。只有约翰慕理,是我唯一看到一位学者,他把这一点稍微点明,但是却没有给予原因;我是觉得这是非常可惜的。盼望弟兄姐妹能够去体会一下,可以去翻阅一下 Strong 的字典,对于信心这个字,他的定义是 persuasion,因为它是从 peitho 衍生来的,而动词 peitho 这个字 Strong 给的定义是 to convince ,Vine 给的定义是 to persuade,而信心就是 persuasion,就是一个劝而信之且说而服之这样的一个实际。我们从这个角度去认识的时候,首先,这种信心绝对与理性脱不了关系;其次,这种信心的主角,不是我去相信,而是我被说服。这一个主动和这一个被动之间的差别是很大很大的,以至于我们的这个信心,我们就可以知道绝对是神的恩典,而不是我的决定要去相信。所以这都是在"信"上面一个很重要的、很细微的,却又很重要的一些基本概念。

问:这个字为什么能从从字义上解释,就是从我们中文的角度是没办法理解。是不是因为它的字,一个字出来,就有时态、语态、词性等,全包括在里面?

在动词上是这样。

在名词上,当然也包括动词,因为希腊文的字,有字的变化,而且它的字的变化,常常追溯到它的源头。从语文学的角度,从一个字衍生到另外一个字,另外一个字再衍生出来。好像有祖父辈的字、有爸爸辈的、有儿子辈的、有孙子辈的。有一些复杂的字系都可以追溯到它的演变,而这个演变,常常带出这个字的一些特别的信息。就"信"这个字而言,因为它是从"劝而信之,说服"这个动词衍生出来的,所以"信"本身就是一种说服,说服之后,才有这个"相信"。所以 Vine 他在他的著作中说(他主要针对英文),关于希腊文的"相信"这个动词,英文的 to believe——就是我们中文的相信——是没有办法、没有能真正去解释出希腊文的"相信"这个字的含义。关于这个动词的演变,我们刚才说的信心,或者说信仰,这个字是名词"信",pistis,然后从它衍生出来的这个动词叫 pisteuo,这个"euo"的字尾是表达,把这个"信"作出来或行出来,也就是

说,把这个信放置在某一个人(或事物)的身上。所以 Vine 说,更准确一点对希腊文 "相信"这个动词的翻译,英文不应该是 to believe(相信),而应该是 to trust,to entrust,就是去信任,去信托,可以把自己信托给对方;这个才是希腊文这个"相信"的这个动词的含义。这是 Vine 在他释经字典的解释里面所提出来的。所以,换句话说,这个信所表达的不止是一个相信,而是一个坚信,坚信到一个地步,我们可以把自己托付给一个对象,把我们的信任信赖放置在祂身上;这是这个信心的基本含义。

问:神是用他们比较丰富的语言来启示的,如果启示是用中文的话,那么要启示这件事,这个字可能就是一个句子了,才能放这么多丰富的意义在里面。

是的,这种意义,除了字义上,还有这个字如何在圣经当中被使用可以来表达,就如 约翰福音,整卷约翰福音当中没有用过一次名词的信或信仰这个字, pistis; 没有用过一 次。约翰完全是用动作来表达的,就是用我们翻成"相信"的 pisteuo 这个动词。所以, 在那个表达中发现,我们对神对基督的信,不仅仅是一种信任信赖,而且,如同在约翰福 音这个谈到生命的书卷中,约翰始终用了这个动词,甚至是分词的形态,譬如说:神爱世 人, 甚至将祂的独生子赐给他们, 叫一切"现正持续信入"祂的人, 不至灭亡, 反得永 生;其中,这个持续不断地把我们的信任信赖放置在祂身上,这就已经暗示一种"关 系"。什么的关系呢?从一个角度是劝信说服的关系;从另外一个角度来说,那就是生命 的关系。因此,约翰福音被称为是一个生命的书卷。这种劝信说服的关系,其实就是我们 与基督在生命之间的那种关系。所以,这就是为什么约翰福音中耶稣给生命下了这样的定 义: 持续不断地认识祢独一的真神, 并且认识祢所差来的耶稣基督, 这就是生命, 这就是 永生(约17:3;按照希腊文的现在时态表達持续的动作)。在那个语境中,就发现约翰 是使用持续不断地"认识"的动作表达一种持续不断的"关系",而"信"正是建立在对 神与基督的"认识"上。所以信心绝对不是一个单独的东西:我有信心了,或我没有信心 了。这个信心是不断会成长的;随着我们对神的认识成长,我们这种劝信说服的关系也不 断地在被提升、在成长。这是整个新约当中,给我们看见一个非常重要的一个点。所以信 心不是一个东西。耶稣也说,信心像一粒种子:换言之,信心也可成为一棵大树。种子般 的信心与大树般的信心绝对不一样,但是有一点是相同的,它们都是带着生命,并且生命 是会成长的。而我们的信心是不是也在对神的认识中不断地成长呢?这是我们每一位基督 徒必须要问自己的。

问:以前在真道学习班,计弟兄已经讲过多次,这个信心不是单方面的,不是说我信就是信心。我记得计弟兄以前也讲过,印象很深刻,信心不只是我信神,我觉得很信、很信,但,反过来说,上帝可以信任你吗?我信神,为神做这个、做那个,表明我很有信心,但是与真正的那种信心,正如计弟兄刚才所讲是生命的关系。你信祂,祂值得你信任;但是反过来,你能让上帝信任你吗?这是生命的关系。当时计弟兄在分享这句话的时候,我曾想上帝怎么信赖我呢?我信神,因为祂是神。但是反过来,你信祂,你生命被改变。生命被改变了,照着神的生命性情去生活、去做、去行动,按神要求去做,然后你就成为一个能够被神所信任的人。请计弟兄与我们再分享。

正因为"信"这个字, pistis, 在圣经当中按上下文至少表达三种含义:

第一种含义:真道,即那个信仰客观的内容、实际,包括我们信仰的对象神等等;但和合本中常常用原文的"那信"来表达信仰的实际(翻译為"真道"),其中一个例子,在加尔文的基督教要义里面有引用,不过没有用和合本的翻译。这节经文说(加3:23;和合本):但这因信得救的理还未来以先,我们被看守在律法之下。"因信得救的理"一一这整句话在原文就是一个字,"信":这个"信"未来之前,我们被圈在律法之下。

然而,这个"信"又表达我们因为被劝信说服,而有的一种主观的坚信。这是第二种含义。此外,这个"信",它的字根就是劝信说服,所以这个字也表达了一种"诚信"的含义,一种信,就是信实,也就是一种"诚信"。

换句话说,这让我们晓得,我们基督徒,我们都认为自己有这个"信"(我就尽量不加上这个"心"字了,而只用"信"这个字,因为至少包括了信心、信仰、信實这三种含义),我们有"信",这也包括我们的"信仰"。我们是有信仰的,我们对信仰也有一个坚信;而圣灵在我们身上的工作,一定也有带出的一个"信实"。如果说我们有这个"信",但是却没有一个"信实",就是没有一个诚信真实的那个信实在我们里头的话,这怎么可能呢?因为在圣经中,我们晓得"信实"与"信心"是同一个字,并且带有劝信说服的含义,是在与神的关系上,在圣灵里面所结出来的果实。所以,事实上,在罗马书一开始的时候,谈到保罗对罗马人的教会说到:你们的信德传遍了天下(罗1:8);这个"信德",其实原文就是这个"信"。所以一个真正有"信",或者说真正有信心或信仰的人,他应当也是一个有信德的人。如果我们有真实的信心,我们的信仰也应当是真实的,我们在与神、与人的相处上,也应当是一个可以被神、被人所信任信赖的。不是吗?所以保罗他自己也讲到,他被神所托付祂自己的话语。这个"托付"在原文的意思就是"相信"动词的被动语态(被相信,被信托):我被神信托了祂自己的话语。我们基督徒都是被神给信托了那为基督的见证。所以在这个认识上,我们要注意一个很严肃的事情:我们的信心反映了我们的信仰,而我们对信仰的认识也反映了我们的信心。

记得我在谈《生命季刊》晓明的故事。他得了癌症,已经到了末期,甚至在临终关怀的阶段;但是教会的弟兄姐妹、信徒,拼命为他祷告,甚至有人看见了异象,应许神必定就会医治他。他们把这种异象、看见、神给的话语告诉了晓明的妻子和他的儿子,然后说,这是神的应许。甚至有人看见异象:晓明被医治的那一年的感恩节,要到全美各地去为主作见证……。不过晓明最后还是去世了,以至于他的儿子非常难过地对他妈妈说:"我再也不相信神了。"为什么不相信神呢?"因为神是撒谎的"。这位妈妈就很难过,但也劝孩子说:"但是神从不撒谎"。儿子说:"为什么那么多人祷告以后,告诉我们爸爸会得医治,是他们说谎吗?"。

虽然我们晓得这些弟兄姐妹是出于好意,并且可能也的确没有一个人故意要说谎,但是,我们也要从客观的角度来看,当晓明在那么严重的情况之下,他们从神那里,凭着信心领受的异象,凭着信心领受到的神医治的应许,这些都是真的吗?事实的结果告诉我们,这些不是真的。如果不是真的,他们那时候凭着大有的信心而看见的异象,凭着大有的信心领受的神的应许,那个信心是真的吗?从结果来看,显然那个信心是大有问题的信心。不是吗?换句话说,从这个角度我们要晓得:是的,我们的信心反映我们的信仰,我们的信仰反映我们的信心;不真实的信心,必定暗示着我们对神的认识一定有亏缺,并且可能带着不真实;不真实的信仰,又导致我们凭着这我们以为是真实的信心,来发出这种我们自己都不知道是虚假的预言,或是看见虚假的异象。

今天在普世教会,特别在第三波灵恩运动的进行当中,我看过太多太多这种类似的例子,当然这也是我们每一位基督徒,在主的面前要儆醒的。换句话说,我凭着我以为的信心来看见虚假的异象,那我的信心是真的吗?所以,真实的信心——如果我们认为我们有真实的"信",这个信不但使我们可以去相信这一位神,相信这一位基督;如果这个信是真实的,也真实的在我们生命中的话,我们也应当是一个可以被神、被人所信任信赖的,至少我们应当是在这个方向上。

这是作一点补充。

其实圣经让我们看到,腓利比书 1:29 和合本的翻译是:因为你们蒙恩,不但得以信服基督,并要为祂受苦。这样,我们的翻译给人一种感觉,我们蒙恩来得以信服基督。不过在这里,原文在这里实际上的意思是:你们是被赋予了恩典。什么是被赋予了的恩典呢?你们信服基督,并且为基督受苦,这都是赋予你们的恩典。这是这句话里真正在表达的。换句话说,不是我们蒙恩了,然后之后去信服基督。原来的意思是,我们对基督的信服就是神赋予我们的恩典;这是我回应刚才陈牧师说"(牧会中)他没用决志"。"我决定我要立定志向来信主",其实这都是神的恩典,是祂的劝信说服,我不过是在祂的劝信说服、祂的恩典中来产生一个回应。这只是一个补充,是用神自己的话语来印证。

有时候回想起来令人震惊的。加尔文基督教的要义,早在主后 1500 多年的时候,已经是 500 多年前写出来的东西,已经很重要地提醒我们:我们的信心、信仰,是与理性、是与对神的认识、对神的的话语是不可分割的。而在时隔了将近 400~500 多年以后,我从小到大信仰的几十年中,有太多次听到我们华人这种反理性的传统,如同林牧师所说的,"知识叫人自高自大,惟有爱心造就人"。就是说"不要去读神学!你只要好好爱主、读经、祷告就可以了","追求那么多知识,只是让人自高自大而已"。也有我们常常听到的:"不要问这么多了";甚至有传道人,當弟兄姐妹问了一大堆圣经的问题,就说:"不要问那么多了,单纯地信就好了"。为什么几百年前,加尔文已经这么清楚地,其实不止加尔文,包括奥古斯汀,1500 年前的人物,他们已经清楚地带出来一种对信心的认识,可是到今天却仍然在我们华人信徒当中,仍然有这么深对信心的误解。我们却又同时把信心当作是一个大家已经都了解的事情,以致大家常常只谈着我们怎么样运用信心,却很少去谈到,到底信心是什么。所以这一点,其实我在尤其这一、二十年中,是非常讶异这种现象的。趁这个机会,也作为一种感叹,也作为与弟兄姐妹之间的一种提醒与互勉。

附录:

009B 加爾文,《基督教要義》, 3.2.1-7:「信心」 John Calvin on "Faith," from *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (3.2.1-7)

3.2-信仰(信心)的意義及其特性

Faith: Its Definition Set Forth, and Its Properties Explained

3.2.1 信心的對象是基督 The Object of Faith is Christ

我們對**信心**若有一個較**明確的定義**,這一切的事就很容易明瞭了,而讀者也可以瞭解它的性質和重要性。但讀者應當牢記以前所說過的,**上帝賜祂的律法給我們作為行為的準則**,假若我們對律法稍有違犯,我們將遭受祂所指定那可怕的永死懲罰。再者,**要按祂所要求的去實行律法,不但困難,而且絕非我們能力所能做到**,所以若我們僅看到自己和自己的過失,不得不認為自己乃是上帝所拋棄,而面臨著永遠沉淪的人。第三,我們已經說過,**只有一個拯救釋放的方法**,可以叫我們免於災難,那就是**救主基督的出現**,天父藉著祂就樂意以祂無限的良善與仁慈,憐憫我們這些以誠懇信心接受祂的仁慈,和以不變的希望寄託在祂身上的人。

But it will be easy to understand all these matters after a clearer *definition of faith* has been presented, to enable our readers to grasp its force and nature. We may well recall here what was explained before: First, *God lays down for us through the law what we should do*; if we then fail in any part of it, that dreadful sentence of eternal death which it pronounces will rest upon us. Secondly, it is not only hard, but *above our strength and beyond all our abilities, to fulfill the law* to the letter; thus, if we look to ourselves only, and ponder what condition we deserve, no trace of good hope will remain; but cast away by God, we shall lie under eternal death. Thirdly, it has been explained that there is *but one means of liberation* that can rescue us from such miserable calamity: the *appearance of Christ the Redeemer*, through whose hand the Heavenly Father, pitying us out of his infinite goodness and mercy, willed to help us; if, indeed, with firm faith we embrace this mercy and rest in it with steadfast hope.

但我們必須研究*信心的性質*,看看它怎能使我們以上帝之子的名份而承受天國,因為不是每一種意見,也不是每一種信念都能與信心這麼偉大的事相匹敵。我們研究信仰的本質,更要特別小心謹慎,以*免陷入現代一般人所墮進的迷惑*。世界上許多人在聽到「信仰」一詞的時候,以為那*不過是同意於福音的歷史而已*。甚至*經院主義*對信仰之爭,*也不過把上帝當做信仰的客體*,(如我在其它的地方所發覺的)他們徒然引人誤入空想的迷途,而不是引人進入正軌。因為上帝既是「住在人不能靠近的光裏」(提前 6:16),必須基督居間為中保,人才可以接近上帝。因此,祂自稱「是世界的光」(約 8:12),又說祂「是道路,真理,和生命,」因為「若不藉著我,沒有人能到」生命之源的「父那裏去」(約 14:6);因為只有祂認識父,又把父顯現給相信的人(參路 10:22)。

But now we ought to examine what this *faith* ought to be like, through which those adopted by God as his children come to possess the Heavenly Kingdom, since it is certain that no mere opinion or even persuasion is capable of bringing so great a thing to pass. Ad we must scrutinize and investigate the *true character of faith* with greater care and zeal because *many are dangerously deluded* today in this respect. Indeed, most people, when they hear this term, understand nothing deeper than *a common assent to the gospel history*. In fact, when faith is discussed in *the schools*, they call *God simply the object of faith*, and by fleeting speculations, as we have elsewhere stated, lead miserable souls astray rather than direct them to a definite goal. For, since "God dwells in inaccessible light" [I Tim. 6:16], *Christ must become our intermediary*. Hence, he calls himself "the light of the world [John 8:12], and elsewhere stated, "the way, the truth, and the life"; for no one comes to the Father, who is "the fountain of life" [Ps. 36:9], except through him [John 14:6] because he alone knows the Father, and afterward the believers to whom he wishes to reveal him [Luke 10:22].

因為保羅說, **除耶穌基督以外**, **沒有別的是他值得他認識的**, (參林前 2:2);在使徒行傳第二十章中他說, 他是勸人信靠基督;在另一處基督對他說:「我差你到外邦人那裏去......叫他們......**因信我, 得蒙赦罪, 和一切成聖的人同得基業**」(徒 26:17,18)。

這使徒告訴我們,上帝的榮光在基督身上向我們顯明,「叫我們得知上帝榮耀的光,顯在耶穌基督的面上」(林後 4:6)。

On this ground, Paul declares that he considers *nothing worth knowing save Christ* [I Cor. 2:2]. In the twentieth chapter of Acts he relates that he has preached "faith in... Christ" [v.21]. And in another passage he has Christ speak as follows: "I shall send you among the Gentiles..., that they may receive *forgiveness of sins and a place among the saints through faith* that is in me" [Acts 26:17-18]. And Paul testifies that the glory of God is visible to us in His person, or – what amounts to the same thing – that the enlightening knowledge of the glory of God shines in His face [II Cor. 4:6].

不錯,**信心的對象是唯一真神**,但也**必須認識上帝所差遣的耶穌基督**(約 17:3)。假如我們不是被**基督的光明**所啟發,我們將完全無法認識上帝。**所以上帝把一切榮華交付與祂的獨生子,好在子身上顯明祂自己**;又使基督所賜的福可以表明父榮耀的真像。以前說過,**我們必須為聖靈所吸引,激發我們尋求基督**,同樣我們也應該知道,不能見的父只能從這個形像中去尋求。這問題奧古斯丁在論信仰之時說得好:「我們應該知道往何處去,和怎樣去法;」隨即又作結論說:「那避免一切錯誤的穩當的方法便是**認識那位神人合一的基督,因為我們所要接近的是上帝,我們所藉以接近上帝的是人**;而這兩者只能在基督身上找到。」保羅講到信上帝的時候,並無意破壞他平日對信心的教訓,這**信心是全靠基督而得安定的**。彼得更恰當地把兩者連為一,說:「我們因著祂而信上帝」(彼前 1:21)。

Indeed, it is true that faith looks to one God. But this must also be added, "To know Jesus Christ whom he has sent" [John 17:3]. For God would have remained hidden afar off if Christ's splendor had not beamed upon us. For this purpose the Father laid up with his only-begotten Son all that he had revealed himself in Christ so that Christ, by communicating his Father's benefits, might express the true image of his glory [cf. Heb. 1:3]. It has been said that we must be drawn by the Spirit to be aroused to seek Christ; so, in turn, we must be warned that the invisible Father is to be sought solely in this image. Augustine has finely spoken of this matter: in discussing the goal of faith, he teaches that we must know our destination and the way to it. Then, immediately after, he infers that the way that is most fortified against all errors is he who was both God and man: namely, as God he is the destination to which we move; as man, the path by which we go. Both are found in Christ alone. But, while Paul proclaims faith in God, he does not have in mind to overturn what he so often emphasizes concerning faith: namely, that all its stability rests in Christ. Peter, indeed, most effectively connects both, saying that through him we believe in God (I Peter 1:21).

3.2.2 信心是建立在知識上,不是在敬虔的無知上

Faith Rests Upon Knowledge, Not Pious Ignorance

(Faith involves knowledge; the true doctrine obscured by Scholastic notion of implicit faith, 3.2.2-5)

...這罪惡和其它數的惡一般,*完全是生於經院派之將基督蒙上一層面紗,掩蓋了* **祂的真面目**;其實,除非我們直接專一地注意祂,我們將永遠陷於迷宮。

This evil, then, like innumerable others, must be attributed to the *Schoolmen*, who have, as it were, *drawn a veil over Christ to hide him*. Unless we look straight toward him, we shall wander through endless labyrinths.

他們不但以模糊的定義減削了,甚而幾乎是完全消減了信仰的一切重要性,而且**虚構了「默信」之說**,他們用默信這名詞來粉飾無知,以最烈的毒素迷惑一般可憐的人。 老實說這觀念不但埋沒了信仰,而且**完全毀滅**了它。所謂信仰,竟是**一無所知**,而使認 識*徒然順從地屈服於教會*嗎?*信仰不是在於無知,乃是在於認識;不但認識上帝,還要* 認識上帝的旨意。因為我們得效,不是靠於承認教會所指示的偽真理,或在我們把我們所應當研討的都交給教會。當我們知道,由於基督所完成的復和,上帝對我們是慈祥的父,又知道父把基督賜給我們,為的是叫我們得著公義,成聖,和生命,我敢說,我們是由於這個認識,不是放棄認識,而得以進入天國。因為使徒所說:「人心裏相信,就可以稱義,口裏承認,就可以得救」(羅10:10)若是指人默信那自己所不瞭解,也不加以研究的事是不夠的;他必須對上帝的憐憫有明確的認識,因為我們被稱義是根據此憐憫。

But besides wearing down the whole force of faith and almost annihilating it by their obscure definition, they have fabricated the fiction of "implicit faith." Bedecking the grossest ignorance with this term, they ruinously delude poor, miserable folk. Furthermore, to state truly and frankly the real fact of the matter, this fiction not only buries but *utterly destroys true faith*. Is this what believing means, to understand nothing, provided only that you submit your feelings obediently to the church? Faith rests not on ignorance, but on knowledge. And this is, indeed, knowledge not only of God but of the divine will. We do not obtain salvation either because we are prepared to embrace as true whatever the church has prescribed, or because we turn over to it the task of inquiring and knowing. But we do so when we know that God is our merciful Father, because of reconciliation effected through Christ [II Cor. 5:18-19], and that Christ has been given to us as righteousness, sanctification, and life. By this knowledge, I say, not by submission of our feeling, do we obtain entry into the Kingdom of Heaven. For when the apostle says, "With the heart a man believes unto righteousness, with the mouth makes confession unto salvation" [Rom. 10:10, cf. Vg.], he indicates that it is not enough for a man implicitly to believe what he does not understand or even investigate. But he requires explicit recognition of the divine goodness upon which our righteousness rests.

3.2.3 羅馬天主教的信心觀(信心等於默認教會的教義)是虛假的 Roman Doctrine of "Implicit" Faith Basically False

我不否認,因我們的無知,**現在有許多事還是模糊不清**,將來也要如此,直等到我們擺脫了肉體的負擔,和上帝更加接近的時候。關於這些問題,**最好是保留判斷**,堅決地與教會保持一致。但在這個托詞之下,*以信仰的雅號尊稱無知與謙虛的結合,是極端的荒謬。因為信仰在乎對上帝和基督的認識*(約 17:3),*而不是在乎對教會的尊敬*。我們知道,他們如何以這捏造的觀念構成一座迷官,以致一般無知淺見的人不知辨別,凡在教會名義之下所指示的,無不視為神諭,熱心接受;有時甚至連最大的錯誤也盲目接受。雖然這是終必毀滅的盲信,他們卻辯稱,那不是他們的確定信仰,乃是一種以教會是否如此信仰為條件的信仰。因此他們詭稱真理是在錯誤中,光明是在黑暗中,真知識是在愚昧中。

Indeed, I do not deny – such is the ignorance with which we are surrounded – that *most things are now implicit for us*, and will be so until, laying aside the weight of the flesh, we come nearer to the presence of God. In these matters we can do nothing better than *suspend judgment*, and hearten ourselves to hold unity with the church. But on this pretext *it would be the height of absurdity to label ignorance tempered by humility "faith"! For faith consists in the knowledge of God and Christ* [John 17:3], *not in reverence for the church*. We see the sort of labyrinth they have constructed with this "implication" of theirs! Anything at all, provided it be palmed off on them under the label "church" – sometimes even the most frightful errors – the untutored indiscriminately seize upon as an oracle. This *headless gullibility*, although it is the very brink of ruin, yet is excused by them; only on condition that "such is the faith of the church" does it definitely *believe anything*.

Thus they fancy that in error they possess truth; in darkness, light; in ignorance, right knowledge.

我們不必多費時間駁斥他們,只**勸告讀者把他們的教理和我們的教理作一番比較,因為真理的清晰性本身**即足以駁倒他們。他們的問題不在乎信仰是否包括在無知的餘物中,但他們堅持說,對於未知的事物只要同意教會的權威和判斷,雖為無知所惑,甚而故意縱容無知,也是有真信仰的人,彷彿整個**《聖經》**並沒有告訴我們,**知識是必須與信仰相結連**的。

But let us not tarry longer over refuting them; we merely *admonish the reader to compare these doctrines with ours.* The *very clarity of truth itself* will of itself provide sufficiently ready refutation. For they do not ask whether faith is wrapped in many remnants of ignorance, but define right believers as those who go numb in their own ignorance, and even brag about it, provided they give assent to the authority and judgment of the church in things unknown to them. As if *Scripture* does not regularly teach that *understanding is joined with faith*!

3.2.4 甚至真正的信心,也常被錯誤和不信包圍

Even Right Faith Is Always Surrounded By Error and Unbelief

我們承認,當我們在世作客之時,我們的信仰是默從的,不但因為**我們對許多事還不瞭解**,而是因為錯誤如雲霧般地包圍我們,以致我們對一切事物的認識很不完全。*那最完全之人的最大智慧是在於以忍耐溫順,努力向前*,不住改善。所以保羅勸告信徒,若他們彼此意見有所不同,就要等待進一步的啟示(腓 3:15)。經驗告訴我們,直到我們解除肉體的束縛,我們的知識與我們的心願相去不知多遠;我們每天讀經,常遇疑難,這就足以證明我們的無知。上帝用這界限約束我們,叫我們謙虛,給每人分配多少的信心,叫*甚至飽學的教師也得學習*。

We certainly admit that so long as we dwell as strangers in the world there is such a thing as implicit faith; not only because *many things are as yet hidden from us*, but because surrounded by many clouds of errors we do not comprehend everything. The *height of wisdom for the most perfect is to go forward* and, quietly and humbly, to strive still further. Therefore Paul exhorts believers that, if some disagree with others in any matter, they should wait for revelation [Phil. 3:15]. Experience obviously teaches that until we put off the flesh we attain less than we should lie. And in our daily reading of Scripture we come upon many obscure passages that convict us of ignorance. With this bridle God keeps us within bounds, assigning to each his "measure of faith" [Rom. 12:3] so that *even the best teacher may be ready to learn.*

我們可以基督的門徒在未蒙完全開導時作為這默信的榜樣。我們知道他們最初受教是如何的困難;他們甚至在最小的事上也躊躇猶豫;甚至在傾聽夫子訓誨之時,仍然沒有多大的長進;當他們得到婦女們的通報,跑到墳墓去之時,還是如在夢中。基督既已證明他們的有信,自不容我們說他們完全沒有信心;其實,假如他們不相信基督要從死裏復活,他們自然不會對著祂再有關切。那些婦女並非因迷信而以香膏塗抹那死者的身體,以為祂復生是沒有希望的;不過雖然她們相信祂的話,知道那是真實可靠的,但那依然盤據在他們心裏的無知,使他們的信心陷在黑暗中,以致他們非常的駭異,不知所措。所以說,當他們看見基督的話業已為事實所證明,最後就相信了;這不是說他們的信仰在這時候開始,而是那在他們心裏好像死了,其實是潛伏著的信心種子,現在才生氣勃發地滋長起來。所以他們有了真實的,卻是默從的信心,因為他們尊基督為唯一的老師;他們既受祂的薰陶,就相信祂是他們的救主,他們相信祂是來自天上,好藉父的恩惠把祂所有的

門徒帶到天上。其實**每一個人的信心總混雜著一些不信的成份的**,這一點我們毋須再尋找比這更熟悉的證據了。

Remarkable examples of this implicit faith may be noted in Christ's disciples before they attained full enlightenment. We see how with difficulty they taste even the first rudiments, halting over the slightest matters, and though hanging on their Master's words, making but little progress. Indeed, when, warned by the women, they rush to the tomb, the resurrection of their Master seems to them like a dream [Luke 24:11-12; cf. John 20:8]. Since Christ previously bore witness to their faith, it is wrong to say that they were completely devoid of it. No, unless they had been persuaded that Christ would rise again, all zeal would have failed them. Nor was it superstition that prompted the women to anoint with spices the corpse of a dead man for whose life there would be no hope. But although they had faith in the words of him whom they knew to be truthful, the ignorance that as yet occupied their minds so enveloped their faith in darkness that they were almost dumfounded. Hence, also it is said that they finally believed after they themselves had discovered the truth of Christ's words through the very fact of his resurrection. Not that they then began to believe, but because the seed of hidden faith - which had been dead, as it were, in their hearts - at that time burst through with renewed vigor! For there was in them a true but implicit faith because they had reverently embraced Christ as their sole teacher. Then, taught by him, they were convinced he was the author of their salvation. And finally, they believed he came from heaven that, through the Father's grace, he might gather his disciples thither. We ought not to seek any more intimate proof of this man that unbelief is, in all men, always mixed with faith.

3.2.5 默信: 信心的準備

"Implicit" Faith as Prerequisite of Faith

有時我們所稱為默信的,若嚴格地說,無非是信心的準備。福音書說有很多人相信,可是這些人雖然欽敬基督的神蹟,對福音的教理卻沒有多大的認識,所以最多只有相信 他是彌賽亞而已。那種引他們樂意順服基督的尊敬之心,雖被稱為信仰,其實不過是信仰的開端而已。例如,那相信基督關於他兒子可得醫治的大臣,按照福音書的見證,當 他回到家裏的時候,他又再相信了(約 4:50-53)。這就是說,他最初把基督的話當做神 論;不過,以後他專心致志地順服祂的權威,接受祂的教義。我們應該知道,他是順從 和勇於學習的;那第一個「信」是指一種特殊的信心;第二個「信」是指把他列在那 (刪:以自己的名字)奉獻與基督的門徒中的。約翰以撒瑪利亞人為例;他們因相信那 婦人的報告就急切地跑到基督跟前,又在聽了基督說話以後,就對那婦人說:「現在我們 信,不是因為你的話,是我們親自聽見了,知道這真是救世主」(約 4:42)。這樣看來: 那些還沒有進入信仰的最初境地,僅傾向於順從的人,也可以被稱為信徒,這不是按照 嚴格的意義來說,乃是因為上帝仁慈地把這偉大的榮譽歸給敬度的心。但這種求進步的 順從之心,與那些因受羅馬教徒所捏造的默信之影響而麻木了的人,是有很大差別的。 如果保羅嚴厲責備那些「常常學習,終久不能明白真道」的人(提後 3:7),那末,那 些專事研究而故作無知的人,又是何等的可恥!

We may also call that faith implicit which is still strictly nothing but the *preparation of faith*. The Evangelists relate that *very many believed* who, *caught up into wonderment by the miracles only, did not advance farther than to believe Christ the Messiah who had been promised*, although they had not been imbued with even a trace of the gospel teaching. Such *reverent attention, which disposed them to submit themselves willingly to Christ, is graced with the title "Faith"*, yet it was *only the beginning of faith*. Thus, the court official who believed Christ's promise concerning the healing of his son [John 4:50], having returned to his house, as the Evangelist testified,

believed anew [John 4:53] because he first received as an oracle what he had heard from the mouth of Christ, and then submitted to Christ's authority to receive the teaching. Yet we must know that he was so teachable and ready to learn that in the first passage his admission of belief signifies a particular faith, while in the second passage he is counted among the disciples who had enlisted with Christ. John sets forth a like example in the Samaritans who so believed the word of a woman that they eagerly rushed to Christ, but spoke to her, when they heard him, as follows; "Now we do not believe on account of your speaking, but we have heard him and we know that it is the Savior of the world" [John 4:42]. From these instances it is clear that even those who are not yet imbued with the first elements but are still inclined to hearken are called "believers"; not in an exact sense, indeed, but in so far as God in his kindness deigns to grace that pious affection with such great honor. But this teachableness, with the desire to learn, is far different from sheer ignorance in which those sluggishly rest who are content with the sort of "implicit faith" the papist invent. For if Paul severely condemns those who "are always learning but never arrive at a knowledge of the truth" [II Tim. 3:7], how much greater ignominy do those merit who deliberately affect complete ignorance!

3.2.6 信心依靠上帝的話語

Faith Rests Upon God's Word

(Relation of Faith to the Word and Brief Definition of Faith, 6-7)

因此,**對基督真正的認識,在乎接受祂為父之所賜,在福音裏認識祂**;祂既是我們信仰的物件,**若沒有福音的指導,我們就不能正當地接近祂**。福音給我們開了無限恩惠的寶藏,若沒有那些寶藏,基督對我們便沒有多大的益處,**保羅把信仰與教理看為不可分開的**,所以說,「你們學了基督,卻不是這樣;如果你們聽過上帝的道,領了祂的教,學了祂的真理」(弗 4:20,21)。

This, then, is *the true knowledge of Christ*, if we *receive him as he is offered by the Father: namely, clothed with his gospel.* For just as he has been appointed as the goal of our faith, so *we cannot take the right road to him unless the gospel goes before us*. And there, surely, the treasures of grace are opened to us; for if they had been closed, Christ would have benefited us little. Thus *Paul yokes faith to teaching*, as an inseparable companion, with these words: "You did not so learn Christ if indeed you were taught what is the truth in Christ" [Eph. 4:20-21 p.].

我卻不將信仰限於福音範圍內,我承認*摩西與先知們所傳的足以建立信心;*不過因為 福音對基督有更充份的表現,所以保羅說得對,「這是信仰和真道的話語」(參提前 4: 6)。因此在另一處,他認為信仰廢了律法(加 3:23-25)意思是福音是新的教訓,因為 基督一現身作為我們的夫子,祂就使父的慈悲更加發揚光大,*而我們的救恩有更顯明的* 見證。那麼,我們的比較方便的解釋方法,是依次由類降到種。

Yet I do not so restrict faith to the gospel without confessing that what sufficed for building it up had been handed down by Moses and the prophets. But because a fuller manifestation of Christ has been revealed in the gospel, Paul justly calls it the "doctrine of faith" [cf. I Tim. 4:6]. For this reason, he says in another passage that by the coming of faith the law was abolished [Rom. 10:4; cf. Gal. 3:25]. He understand by this term the new and extraordinary kind of teaching by which Christ, after he became our teacher, has more clearly set forth the mercy of the Father, and has more surely testified to our salvation.

第一, 我們必須知道,信仰與道有永恆的關係,兩者不能分開,正如光線之 與太陽,所以上帝藉著以賽亞說:「你們側耳而聽,就必得活」(賽 55:3)。道是信仰 的源泉,可由約翰的話看出來:「但記載這些事,要叫我們信」(約20:31)。詩人也勸 百姓相信,說:「惟願你們今天聽祂的話」(詩95:7;94:8);**聽即是指信而言**。最後, **以賽亞書認為教會的兒女所以與外人不同**,是在於前者**是祂的門徒,受祂的教訓**(參賽 54:13;約6:45)。假如這利益是大家所共有的,祂為什麼只對少數人說呢?同樣,福 音書總是把*「信徒」和「門徒」作為同義字*,尤其路加和使徒行傳,常有那樣的用法; 在使徒行傳第九章,他把門徒這名詞用到一位婦女身上(增:徒9:36;6:1-2,7;9: 1,10,19,25-26,38;11:26,29;13·52;14:20,8;15:10;徒16-21章)。

Yet it will be an easier and more suitable method if we descend by degrees from general to particular. First, we must be reminded that *there is a permanent relationship between faith and the Word.* He could not separate one from the other any more than we could separate the rays from the sun from which they come. For this reason, God exclaims in The Book of Isaiah: "Hear me and your soul shall live" [ch. 55:3]. And John shows this same wellspring of faith in these words: "These things have been written that you may believe" [John 20:31]. The prophet, also, desiring to exhort the people to faith, says: "Today if you will hear his voice" [Ps. 95:7; 94:8; Vg.]. "To hear" is generally understood as meaning to believe. In short, it is not without reason that in The Book of Isaiah, God distinguishes the children of the church from outsiders by this mark: he will teach all his children [Is. 54:13; John 6:45] that they may learn of him [cf. John 6:45]. For if benefits were indiscriminately given, why would he have directed his Word to a few? To this corresponds the fact that the Evangelists commonly use the words "believers" and "disciples" as synonymous. This is especially Luke's usage in The Acts of the Apostles: indeed he extends this title even to a woman in Acts 9:36 [Acts 6:1-2, 7; 9:1, 10, 19, 25-26, 38; 11:26, 29; 13:52; 14:20, 28; 15:10; also chs. 16 to 21].

第二, 因此,若信心對應針對著的目標稍有偏移,就喪失了它原來的性質, 流為無定的盲信,陷心靈於歧途。*這道是支持信的基礎,一旦離開了它,信仰就不免崩 潰。沒有道,即沒有信。*

Therefore if faith turns away even in the slightest degree from this goal toward which it should aim, it does not keep its own nature, but becomes uncertain credulity and vague error of mind. The same *Word is the basis whereby faith is supported and sustained; if it turns away from the Word, it falls.* Therefore, *take away the Word and no faith will then remain.*

我們在這裏不用爭論傳佈那*產生信心的上帝的道是否需要人的工作*,這一點我們將留在別的地方討論;但我們敢說,*那傳與我們的道的本身無論怎樣傳來,是好像一面鏡子,叫信仰在其中可以看見上帝*。所以不論上帝是否借用人,或完全靠自己的權能運行,祂總是以道向祂所要吸引的人表現自己(參羅 1:5)。因此,保羅把信心解釋為對福音的服從,而稱讚信心為供獻的祭物(腓 2:17)。*信心所瞭解的*,不但是一位上帝,主要的乃*是認識祂對我們的旨意*。因為我們要明白祂是什麼,遠不如明白祂對我們是怎樣的重要。

We are not here discussing whether a human ministry is necessary for the sowing of God's Word, from which faith may be conceived. This we shall discuss in another place (IV. 1. 5). But we say that the Word itself, however it be imparted to us, is like a mirror in which faith may contemplate God. Whether, therefore, God makes use of man's help in this or works by his own power alone, he always represents himself through his Word to those whom he wills to draw to himself. And for this reason, Paul defines faith as that obedience which is given to the gospel [Rom. 1:5], and elsewhere praises allegiance to faith in Philippians [Phil. 1:3-5; cf. I Thess. 2:13]. In understanding faith it is not merely a question of knowing that God exists, but also – and this especially – of knowing what is his will toward us. For it is not so much our concern to know who he is in himself, as what he wills to be toward us.

所以我們知道,*信心就是從上帝的道所得來關於祂對我們的旨意的認識。信心的 基礎是在於預先相信上的真理*。若心中稍存疑惑,便動搖了道的權威,或者根本沒有了 *道的權威*。除非你毫無疑義地承認,凡出自上帝的,都是神聖不可侵犯的真理,否則, 只有信上帝為真實無欺是不夠的。

Now, therefore, we hold *faith* to be *a knowledge of God's will toward us, perceived from his Word.* But *the foundation of this is a preconceived conviction of God's truth.* As for its certainty, so long as your mind is at war with itself, *the Word* will be of doubtful and weak *authority*, or rather of none. And it is not even enough to believe that God is trustworthy [cf. Rom. 3:3], who can neither deceive nor lie [cf. Titus 1:2], unless you hold to be beyond doubt that whatever proceeds from him is sacred and inviolable truth.

3.2.7 信心:確定的知識,知道上帝對我們的美意,建立在基督裏上帝給我們的應許,透過聖靈向我們的理性啟示,印記在我們心中

FAITH, 1539 ONWARDS: SURE, CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S GOOD WILL TO US, FOUNDED ON PROMISES GIVEN IN CHIRST, REVEALED TO MIND, SEALED IN HEARTS BY SPIRIT

但人心既不因上帝的每一句話而發生信心,所以我們必須進一步研究到底和信仰 (信心)有特殊關係的,是道中的那一部份。上帝對亞當說:「你必定死」(創 2:17); 又對該隱說:「你兄弟的血,有聲音從地裏向我哀告」(創 4:10);這些聲明非但不足 以建立信心,反足以動搖信心。我們不否認,信仰(信心)總是應該承認上帝的真理,不 論是在什麼時候或以什麼方式說出的,且不論那真理的內容怎樣;我們現在只要研究, 信心在上帝的道中有什麼可作為根據的。當我們良心所面對著的都是憤怒和報復的時候, 它怎能不恐懼戰慄呢?如果它所恐怖的是上帝,它怎麼不會逃避祂呢?可是,信心應該 尋找上帝,不應逃避上帝。

But since man's heart is not aroused to faith at every word of God, we must find out at this point what, strictly speaking, faith looks to in the Word. God's word to Adam was, "You shall surely die" [Gen. 2:17]. God's word to Cain was, "The blood of your brother cries out to me from the earth" [Gen. 4:10]. But these words are so far from being capable of establishing faith that they can of themselves do nothing but shake it. In the meantime, we do not deny that it is the function of faith to subscribe to God's truth whenever and whatever and however it speaks. But we ask only *what faith finds in the Word of the Lord upon which to lean and rest.* Where our conscience sees only indignation and vengeance, how can it fail to tremble and be afraid? Or to shun the God whom it dreads? Yet *faith ought to seek God, not to shun him*.

這樣,我們對信心好像還沒有一個完全的定義,因為對上帝的一般旨意的認識,不能算為信仰。既然上帝旨意的宣佈常產生恐懼和憂虞,我們倒不如*注意上帝的仁愛或憐憫*,這樣必使我們與信心的本性更接近些。*在我們知道救恩是存在於上帝以後,我們必被吸引去尋找祂*;上帝為我們貯備了救恩,是由*祂聲明救恩是祂所特殊關心的*而得到證實。*上帝恩典的應許*是人心唯一可靠的根據,所以我們需要這種應許,以*保證祂是我們慈祥的父*,否則我們便無法和祂接近。

It is plain, then, that we do not yet have a full definition of faith, inasmuch as merely to know something of God's will is not to be accounted faith. But what if we were to substitute *his benevolence or his mercy* in place of his will, the tidings of which are often sad and the proclamation frightening? Thus, surely, we shall more closely approach the nature of faith; for *it is after we have learned that our salvation rests with God that we are attracted to seek him.* This fact is

confirmed for us when he declares that *our salvation is his care and concern.* Accordingly, we need *the promise of grace*, which can *testify to us that the Father is merciful*; since we can approach him in no other way, and upon grace alone the heart of man can rest.

所以,**憐憫與真理**,在《詩篇》中是相提並論的;**因為如果上帝不以祂的憐憫引我們到祂那裏去,認識祂的真理性,那就對我們無所補益了;如果祂不是親口應承,我們也無從接受祂的憐憫**。「我已陳明你的信實,和你的救恩;我未曾隱瞞你的慈愛和誠實……願你的慈愛和誠實常常保佑我」(詩 40:10,11)。又說:「主啊,你的慈愛上及諸天;你的信實達到穹蒼」(詩 36:5);「凡遵守祂的約的人,主都以慈愛誠實待祂」(詩 25:10)。又說:「因為祂向我們大施慈愛;主的誠實;存到永遠」(詩 117:2);「我要為你的慈愛和誠實稱讚你的名」(詩 138:2)。先知所講說的意義與這相同,上帝的應許是仁慈和誠實的,我不必再引證。若不是上帝先行證實祂對我們的善意,既不含糊,亦不隱諱,那麼,我們若斷言祂對我們是慈祥的,就未免近於武斷了。但我們已經知道,**基督是上帝之愛的唯一保證,若沒有祂,上帝的恨與怒的徵候必處處顯出**。

On this basis the psalms commonly yoke these two, *mercy and truth,* as if they *were mutually connected* [Ps. 89:14, 24; 92:2; 98:3; 100:5; 108:4; 115:1; etc.]; for *it would not help us at all to know that God is true unless he mercifully attracted us to himself. Nor would it have been in our power to embrace his mercy if he had not offered it with his word: "I have declared thy truth and thy salvation; I have not concealed thy goodness and thy truth. ... Let thy goodness and thy truth ... preserve me" [Ps. 40:10-11, Comm.]. Another passage: "Thy mercy ... extends to the heavens, thy truth to the clouds." [Ps. 36:5, Comm.]. Likewise: "All the ways of Jehovah are kindness and truth to those who keep his covenant." [Ps. 25:10, Comm.] "For his mercy is multiplied upon us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever." [Ps. 117:2; 116:2, Vg.; cf. Comm.] Again, "I will sing thy name for thy mercy and thy truth." [Ps. 138:2.] I pass over what we read in the Prophets along the same line, that God is kind and steadfast in his promises. For it will be rash for us to decide that God is well disposed toward us unless he give witness of himself, and anticipate us by his call, that his will may not be doubtful or obscure. But we have already seen that <i>the sole pledge of his love is Christ, without whom the signs of hatred and wrath are everywhere evident*.

因為除非我們對上帝之良善的認識到了能叫我們去依靠它的程度,這種認識就沒有多大的益處,而我們就應當排除那含有疑惑,不一致,常變,和猶疑不決的認識。人心盲目黑暗,對上帝的旨意不能滲透;人心既永遠猶疑無定,就無法有堅定的信念。所以我們的心思必須有外來的光照和啟迪。庶幾我們對上帝的道能有充份的信仰。所以,假如我們說,信心是對上帝的仁愛的一種不變而確實的認識,這認識是以基督那白白應許的真實為根據,並藉著聖靈向我們的思想所啟示,在我們心裏所證實的,那麼,這就是信的一個完全的定義。

Now, the knowledge of God's goodness will not be held very important unless it makes us rely on that goodness. Consequently, understanding mixed with doubt is to be excluded, as it is not to firm agreement, but in but in conflict, with itself. Yet far indeed is the mind of man, blind and darkened as it is, from penetrating and attaining even to perception of the will of God! And the heart, too, wavering as it is in perpetual hesitation, is far from resting secure in that conviction! Therefore our mind must be otherwise illumined and our heart strengthened, that the Word of God may obtain full faith among us. Now we shall possess a right definition of faith if we call it a firm and certain knowledge of God's benevolence toward us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ, both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit.