

REFORMED CHURCH CLANWILLIAM : SUNDAY 22 JUNE 2014 EVENING SERVICE

Sing before: Psalm 116:4

Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Psalm of praise: 107:1

Prayer:

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation of the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

Amen

Psalm 86:1

Scripture reading: Isaiah 25

Scripture text: Isaiah 25:9; Catechism Sunday 11

And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

(Isaiah 25:9)

Here it deals with the faith in and the confession of the Name of Christ: Jesus Christ the Anointed Son of God through whom salvation came for us.

We consider the following:

1. **The Lord Jesus has forever been confessed as the coming Saviour.**
2. **The necessity of an own confession.**

1. **The Lord Jesus has forever been confessed as the coming Saviour.**

Have you ever considered what the contents of this confession of Isaiah are?

- The fact that the Lord Jesus is the true Saviour means that He was already prophesied as the One that will come to save us from our sins.

- The confession is borne by the knowledge that we need this Saviour because we have already discovered that none of us have the ability of saving ourselves.

The verse of Scripture notes that it will be said that the Saviour will arrive on a specific day.

- This Saviour we so long expected will then work our salvation.
- We must then rejoice about His help.

Then the day came. The Lord Jesus arrived.

- During the time He was on earth He Himself also preached about His work.
- He preached that He is the only Door through which we can enter into the kingdom of God.

He is also the Only Saviour who can lay claim to the fact that His arrival was announced.

- And that His arrival was exactly as He had it prophesied.
- Should you not confess this Jesus Christ it simply means that you are not saved and will be lost.

This Jesus Christ is a full Saviour.

- It means that there is no power that can defy the Lord Jesus.
- In Colossians 2:10 it is recorded that He is the Head who has authority over all authorities and power and that there is nothing falling outside of His dispensation.

This also has a meaning for us because in Romans 8:32 the Lord writes that we, through the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, have a share in the rule over all things.

- This also clarifies what the book Revelation says that the chosen saw where they, together with Christ, are sitting on the thrones.

Together with this now consider the miracles of the Lord Jesus.

- He had the blind see again.
- Thereby He indicated that He would redeem them.
- And that He also had the power to do so.

The same is true about the deaf who could hear again.

It was amongst other the sign that we cannot in our own power hear the gospel of salvation and save ourselves.

- Through His unlimited power Jesus Christ lets the people hear.
- He not only heals the ears of the body, but also the ears of the spirit.
- Without power and earnings from our side.

Or the dead the Lord resurrected from his grave.

- Thereby He showed His power of letting you arise into the kingdom of God immediately after your death.
- Thereby He also shows that you, on the day referred to by the text of Scripture, will again arise from the grave to live with Him in eternity.
- Again: He arises alone from the dead. You cannot render any help.

The work of the Saviour we confess is thus in this life and in eternity perfect. It is also spiritual and physically perfect.

2. The necessity of an own confession.

It is extremely necessary for the church to confess Jesus, the King of the Church, in this revelation of omnipotence of Him to the world.

- The maintenance of this confession is in a certain sense the yardstick of the church's faith.
- It delivers proof whether the church is still continually looking for its salvation in the Lord and whether it always worships the Lord Jesus, because He is God.

If we have to summarise the necessity of the confession that Jesus is the Lord we can put it like this:

- Firstly it is the calling of the church to confess Jesus as God and King of the church.
- Secondly it is a command from the Lord – we must do it.
- Thirdly the true believer must experience the urge to worship and glorify Jesus out of love for Himself and also out of gratitude for His work of salvation.
- Fourthly the world must always hear this confession again.

This confession that Jesus is God and Saviour is more important than you think.

- How many people are there that pretend to be believers but use the Name of the Lord and the Name Jesus as a swearword.
- This reveals that you do not have the needed respect for the Lord Jesus.
- You can judge for yourself if such a person could be in heaven.

You can also deny the Lord in another way.

- You can make a confession with your mouth, but deny the Lord with your heart.
- Listen when you talk politics how we only talk about our own strength.

And then comes the great heartbreaking truth of sometimes referring to the Lord in the wrong way – only to use His glory to strengthen our case here on earth, whilst the opposite is indeed true, namely that our living must serve His glory.

The Lord does not say that the confession of Jesus as Saviour is a magic word that will remove all our problems and opponents.

- The Lord teaches that your confession makes you sober and able – also in your thoughts and in your judgement over matters. Also in your training.
- Then you can know that you thereby comply with the will of God. And you can know that you do it to protect God's glory and to confirm His honour.

We must take care that we do not confess Jesus as Saviour, but in our lives make a slave out of Him, which we only need to get out of our troubles.

- You can only confess His as the Light and the Truth should you not be so haughty that you consider your own abilities or your own desires higher than His.

It is not unimportant to guard over what you confess about Jesus and what you do with it in your life, because in Matthew 10:33 the Lord says the following:

"But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven".

(Matthew 10:33)

This in fact is written just after the promise of salvation in verse 32 where the Lord Jesus gives the assurance that He will confess everyone who confesses Him to His father in the heaven.

- A false confession about the Lord Jesus only means one thing for you: the flames of hell. The Lord does not allow toying with Him.

Keep in mind, the confession about the Saviour as God and King, also over your own life, gives you peace.

- When you possess the peace with God there is no reason for you to be tense or hurried in your life.
- Then you have the certainty that you are living responsibly to the glory of God and that He has already forgiven your sins in Jesus.

Then you will know that Jesus Christ is the Key that opens the doors to the heaven for you. He is the Giver of grace – grace that protects your life in this temporary existence, but also in the eternal life.

Come, let us together read Catechism Sunday 11.

Sunday 11

29. Q. Why is the Son of God called Jesus, that is, Saviour?

A. Because He saves us from all our sins,[1] and because salvation is not to be sought or found in anyone else.[2]

[1] Matt. 1:21; Heb. 7:25. [2] Is. 43:11; John 15:4, 5; Acts 4:11, 12; I Tim. 2:5.

30. Q. Do those believe in the only Saviour Jesus who seek their salvation and well-being from saints, in themselves, or anywhere else?

A. No. Though they boast of Him in words, they in fact deny the only Saviour Jesus.[1] For one of two things must be true: either Jesus is not a complete Saviour, or those who by true faith accept this Saviour must find in Him all that is necessary for their salvation.[2]

[1] I Cor. 1:12, 13; Gal. 5:4. [2] Col. 1:19, 20; 2:10; I John 1:7.

Amen.

Closing prayer.

Closing Song: Scripture Versification 121:1

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you, the Lord turn His countenance to you and give peace.

Amen

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22 June 2014
Scripture Modern King James Version**