

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:13 – 2:12

CoF 28 (art 2)

Singing: 49:1-3 – 182:1, 2, 5, 6, 7 – 265:1-3 – 442:1, 4, 5

Intro: Did Peter address you in the read portion of his letter?

A. If not, seek always to be in workshop of the Holy Spirit: Rom. 10:14-17

1. But don't 'just' come:

a. come prepared: 2 Chron. 12:14; 19:3; Ezra 7:10

b. come 'sweating' in prayer before Jesus: Acts 5:31

c. take hold of God in His promises to you: Ps. 81:10-11; Is. 64:7

B. If by God's grace you are *no stranger of His saving grace* (see art 29)

1. You are 'duty bound to join and unite yourself' Christ's church

2. Your sacred vow resembles the *marriage vow* of two committed lovers!

C. While you have to examine yourself, so do your spiritual leaders have the duty to be the watchmen over the congregation of the saved: Acts 20:28-29

1. The inescapable reality of Jesus' teaching in Matthew 13:24-30 does not release the elders of their duty to guard the holy congregation

D. Why do born again believers have to join themselves to a local congregation?

1. Because of the nature of *communion of saints* (HCat q/a 55; Luke 5:10)

2. Because your gift as saint of God (1 Peter 4:10-11) does not belong to you
a. each believer is an 'office-bearer' (Eph. 4:12; Rom. 15:14)

3. Because you are entitled to benefit from the gifts of fellow saints: Phil. 4:14

Reflect & Act on your partnership with your fellow saints (Gal. 6:9-10)