

Kingdom News

Bible Study - Come Let Us Reason Together. (Isaiah 1:18)

Volume 1, Class 4

May 27, 2010

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Boot Camp

Christianity 101 - The Basics

Faith

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

In the prior classes, we talked about *Forgiveness* and *Repentance*; tonight we'll talk about *Faith*.

Over the course of the coming sessions, the Lord will disclose to us foundational principles of the Christian faith. Here are some of the basic tenets:

- Forgiveness – What's your flavor of "forgiveness?"
- Repentance – To so agree with God on a particular truth as to align one's self (in word and deed) with that truth.
- **Faith** – What is it and where do we get it from?
- Obedience – Obey who and why? What does *faith* have to do with *obedience*?
- Truth – In the word of Pilate, "What is *truth*?"
- Prayer – What is it and how do we do it? Is there a relationship between *truth* and *prayer*?
- Sin – You know "sweet in the mouth; and bitter in the belly."
- Righteousness – What is it? How does sin and *righteousness* relate to each other?
- Etc. as the Lord pleases

WHAT IS FAITH and WHERE DO WE GET IT FROM?

What is *faith*?

- Is *faith* the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen?⁽¹⁾
- Is it the case that whatsoever is not of *faith*, is sin?⁽²⁾
- Whatever *faith* is, every man has been given a measure of it.⁽³⁾
- And without *faith*, it is impossible to please God.⁽⁴⁾

We were having a conversation one day recently, and during that conversation it was said that the object of "hope" can be inanimate. But the object of "*faith*" must be personal. Think about that, is that true?

You can hope that a situation turns out okay. You can hope that decisions are made in your favor. But true, Kingdom *faith* is an "act of worship," therefore it must terminate on a Person. Worship is derived from two Old English words "worth" and "scipe." A very old use of the term was "worthship." Worship is a league of honor; it is an allegiance. Worship is to esteem or to bestow honor upon one.

Now we can see why *faith* is the substance (or evidence) of things hoped for; as it is the very joining of one in league with God. One, who is joined with God, has full access to the treasury of the Kingdom; nothing will be withheld from that one.

We see too, why whatsoever is “not of *faith*” (out of allegiance with God) must be sinful.

It makes sense, that it is impossible to please God, without *faith*. For a show of *faith* is to esteem Him. God cannot be pleased, where He is not honored and esteemed.

It has been placed in every man’s heart the capacity (the need) to have *faith* or to worship. Everyone worships something (correctly said “someone”). We now see why idolatry (the worship of anything other than God, Himself) is such an abomination. The worshipper has taken his God-given capacity to worship and has established a league with the adversary.⁽⁵⁾ For those who believe that inanimate objects can be worshipped, please know that personalities provoke worship. Inanimate objects do not provoke worship. The enemy is so intent on circumventing the worship of God, that he’ll focus your attention on anything; as long as it is not God, Himself. But be certain, that in the eyes of God anything (apart from God) that is worshipped is simply a decoy for the enemy.⁽⁵⁾

Jesus told Peter, that Satan petitioned the Throne for permission to “sift Peter as wheat.” Jesus, also let Peter know that permission had been granted. Jesus went on to say, “Peter, I have prayed for you that your *faith* does not fail; that you do not forsake your allegiance to Me.”⁽⁶⁾

Two blind men followed Jesus, saying “... have mercy on us.” To you, it was a request. To Jesus, it was worship.⁽⁷⁾ It pleases God that we should come to Him with our need; to bring our emptiness to His fullness.⁽⁸⁾ When the blind men came worshipping, Jesus asked them a question about their *faith*. Why? Because, faith is an “act of worship.” Jesus asked, “Do you believe that I am able?” Said otherwise; Jesus asked “do you esteem My ability to heal, above your illness? Which one? Is your *faith* in your current state of blindness? Or is your *faith* in My ability to give sight?” The blind men, said Yes, Lord we esteem Your ability to give sight over our inability to see.” The Lord said, “Whatever you have placed your faith in; whatever you worship; whatever you esteem, have that.” We know what they placed their *faith* in, because their eyes were opened.⁽⁹⁾

In Peter’s letter to the churches in the northern part of Asia Minor⁽¹⁰⁾ he encouraged them regarding their trials. He said, that the “trials of their faith” (or the testing of their “allegiance to God”) was much more precious than gold. And that it would result in praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. He said that their *faith*, once proven, would worship the Lord.

In closing, *faith* is the currency of the Kingdom; it is a medium of exchange. It is that by which we exchange our life for His. It is that by which we procure the promises of God, made available in Christ Jesus.

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)

⁽¹⁾ Hebrews 11:1

⁽²⁾ Romans 14:23

⁽³⁾ Romans 12:3

⁽⁴⁾ Hebrews 11:6

⁽⁵⁾ 1 Corinthians 10:19-21

⁽⁶⁾ Luke 22:32

⁽⁷⁾ Matthew 15:25

⁽⁸⁾ Colossians 2:9

⁽⁹⁾ Matthew 9:27-30

⁽¹⁰⁾ 1 Peter 1:17