

Faith

John 3:16

Introduction

1. Promise: John 3:16
 - a. What does it mean to believe on Him?
 - b. What does it involve?
2. Many want eternal life, but we must believe the truth about Jesus Christ.

Discussion

I. The Necessity of Faith.

- A. Without faith it is impossible to please Him (Heb. 11:6).
- B. John 8:24: “*Unless you believe that I am He.*”
 1. All have sinned; therefore all deserve to die (Rom. 2:23; 6:23).
 2. But salvation is offered to those who believe.
 3. If anyone is unwilling to believe then they cannot be saved (Mark 16:16).
- C. Acts 4:12: Jesus is the only one through whom we can be saved.

II. The Pattern of Faith

- A. It is possible to believe a lie (2 Thess. 2:11-12).
 1. There are many false gospels in the world (Ga. 1:6).
 2. Those who teaching and believe a different gospel will not be saved (Gal. 1:8-9).
 3. If we truly love the Lord, we will believe only what the Bible teaches.
- B. 1 Tim. 2:3-6: Come to the knowledge of the truth.
 1. God reveals the truth in the Bible because He wants us to be saved.
 2. But we must be willing to accept the truth.
 3. Whether we accept it or not, we will be judged by it.
- C. 1 Cor. 15:1-7: What we must believe.
 1. Believe in who Jesus is (Son of God, Lord, Christ).
 2. Believe in what He did (died and rose from the dead).
 3. Believe in what He offers (salvation for souls).
 4. Believe in His authority (He has all authority, Matt. 28:18).

III. The Obligation of Faith (James 2:14, 26).

- A. What must we do?
 1. Mark 16:15-16: Believe and be baptized-Jesus taught faith + action.
 2. Acts 2:37-38: they knew they needed to do something, Peter answered “*repent and...be baptized.*”
 3. Acts 8:12: Men and women were baptized having believed.
 4. Acts 8:35-37: “*Preaching Jesus*” expressed need to be baptized.
- B. Obligated to learn.

1. Matt. 10:25: Disciple be like his Master.
2. Matt. 28:20: Disciples obligated to learn all that Jesus commanded.
3. 1 John 2:6: Walk just as He walked
4. 2 Pet. 3:18: Grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord

C. Obligated to obey.

1. Sin is the result of disobedience (1 John 3:4).
2. To be saved in Christ, our faith must result in obedience (Heb. 5:9).
3. If we want to be saved, then our faith must motivate us to cast away our sins.
 - a. Eph. 4:22: “*put off, concerning you former conduct, old man...*”
 - b. Col. 3:9: “*put off the old man with his deeds.*”
 - c. Rom. 6:6-7, 22: “*freed from sin...salves of God.*”
4. We learn so that we can know how to obey (Eph. 5:17).
5. If we are unwilling to obey, then our sins will never be taken away (Heb. 10:26-27).
6. Christ is Lord, we can only be saved if we make Him our Lord.

IV. The Joy of Believing

A. They rejoiced having believed

1. Acts 2:40-41: “*gladly received his words...*”
2. Acts 8:39: “*went on his way rejoicing...*”
3. Acts 13:48: “*they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord.*”
4. Acts 16:30-34: “*he rejoiced, having believed...*”

B. The source of their joy

1. Eph. 2:1-3: All were dead in trespasses and sins.
2. Rom. 3:23 ff.: God sent His Son for redemption.
3. Eph. 2:4-8:
 - a. Through Christ, made alive.
 - b. Raised up to sit in heavenly places
 - c. Shown the exceeding riches of His grace.
4. Eph. 4:17-19: Free from the ignorance and darkness of the world.
5. 1 Pet. 1:3-5: Begotten again to a living hope.

Conclusion

1. All men have the opportunity to experience the joy of true faith.
2. Many believe, but faith unto salvation requires obedience.
3. Obedience brings greater joy than disobedience.
4. When Christ comes, will you have faith? The only way you can answer yes is if you have obeyed the gospel.

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