

THE SWORD

Fall 2007

Faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1



Introduction To Faith

By Phil Lumpkin

Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 18:2-3). In this passage, Jesus taught his disciples a valuable lesson on humility based on the trusting attitude and disposition of a little child. Children (and grandchildren) touch our hearts in profound ways--and no more so than when a child looks up into our eyes with total submission, trust and confidence; this melts even the hardest of hearts. Jesus would have us develop this childlike attitude of total trust and faith.

However, developing a childlike attitude of total trust and faith in God is easier said than done. Our western culture subtly bombards us with the message of individualism, “have it your way”, and in our homes, have we not taught our children to “stand on your own two feet.” It entices us to rely on ourselves when realistically we cannot affect the outcome.

We’re familiar with Hebrews 11, that wonderful chapter of faith. By faith, Noah prepared an ark to save his household. By faith, Abraham left his home and traveled to an alien land of promise. By faith Sarah gave birth to Isaac when she was old. Verse 13 reads, “All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.”

Perhaps we’ve overlooked the helpful message in the last phrase of this verse. These and other faithful children of God, “confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.”

When we’re in unfamiliar circumstances, perhaps alone in a frightening situation, we take great comfort when someone lends a helping hand. The faithful of Hebrews 11 accurately saw their sojourn on earth – they saw themselves as strangers and exiles. As such they were looking for God’s helping hand and readily looked up to Him with total submission, trust and confidence. Unfortunately, it’s difficult for us to see ourselves as strangers and exiles. We confidently see ourselves as quite capable of taking care of ourselves – “Thank you.” And consequently we don’t look for God’s helping hands: loving hands that are always extended to help us.

Hebrews 11:6 reads, “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” We gratefully acknowledge and stand in awe of the grandeur, majesty and power of the most high God. We must also believe that He is able to reward us and stands ready with outstretched arms to do so--to take care of us who look up to Him with total submission, trust and confidence. This is what our heavenly Father desires from His children.

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The Objective Of Our Publication Spiritual Development

By Phil Lumpkin

We've talked about it, planned it, and finally we've jumped into the water. This inaugural issue of North Beach's periodic publication is our effort to encourage further devotion to God and help us as a family of saints to continue our growth and development in Jesus Christ. A few months ago we altered our weekly bulletin to focus primarily on family information, weekly schedules and announcements. This periodic publication will focus primarily on spiritual development. We share the following objectives for this effort:

- ☺ Address relevant, useful topics and issues with subjects that will help us grow spiritually and to grow closer to God, our Lord and our fellow saints.
- ☺ Tightly focus each publication on a single topic or issue. Periodic publications will generally contain several articles by different authors, but each will address a different aspect or perspective of the topic under discussion.
- ☺ Strive for scholarly writing and thought. Expect an emphasis on quality in these areas. Authors will primarily be solicited from our congregation.
- ☺ Strive diligently for straightforward, practical Bible teaching. We will tackle scripture at a "meat and potatoes" level: to give you something to sink your teeth into. We'll shun hobby horses, opinions and matters of judgment.

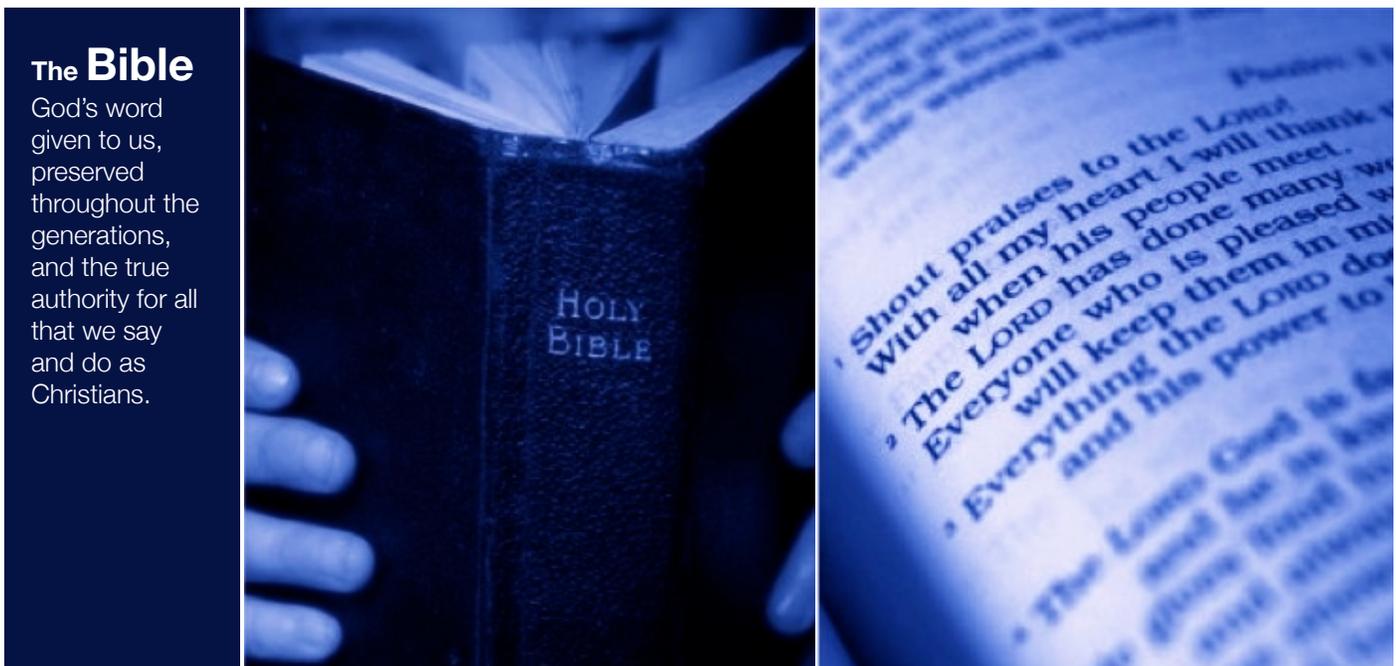
☺ Our primary audience is the body of saints at North Beach – the whole congregation. Since this is our publication, to help us grow we can adapt it to address our needs within the autonomy of our local congregation. Of course, you are free to share it with others (Christians or non-Christians) as you like.

☺ The publication schedule is flexible at this time. As the Lord blesses our effort we envision a quarterly publication.

☺ We elders will serve as the editors. David will assist us and serve as the administrative focal point and publisher. If you have an interest and talent to participate in any aspect of this effort please let us know.

This is an exciting opportunity for all of us as readers to open our hearts and meditate on God's word while being guided in thought by fellow saints. It also presents an opportunity for personal development. Opportunities to grow will include: topic(s) development, Bible study, writing, critiquing and editing, compilation, publishing, printing, distribution, etc. We look forward to working together with you in this effort to bring honor and glory to His name.

Your Elders



The Bible

God's word given to us, preserved throughout the generations, and the true authority for all that we say and do as Christians.

“By Grace... ...Through Faith” Ephesians 2:8

By Russ Ward

No one professing Christianity disputes the fact that one is saved by Grace. However, just how this Grace is bestowed has been the subject of many writings and much controversy. Gnostics of the 1st & 2nd century rejected apostolic instruction yet relied upon Ephesians 2:8 to validate their assertion that physical man was wholly corrupt. Early reformists tied this scripture to Paul’s epistle to the Romans to substantiate their position of Adamic sin and total depravity. In more recent times evangelicals have hung their hats on this verse fortifying their stance of Faith alone (without works) using verse 9 as their exclamation point. “Not of works lest any should boast”

“By Grace...Through Faith”

Grace is rarely in question but Faith often is. The word “Faith” comes from the Greek word *pistis* (truth, truthfulness, credence, or assurance), and happens to be the same predominant Greek translation for Faith throughout the New Testament. Those who lived, wrote, and spoke this Greek language balanced these two concepts knowing one could not exist without the other.

This debate has always been a false dilemma. It never was a question of a choice between Faith and works or Faith alone combined with Grace to obtain salvation. To the 1st century Church “The Faith” was their assurance that God would be faithful to bestow “His Grace” upon those in whom he found obedient. (Matthew 7:21, 24:13, John 5:28-29, Revelation 22:12)

What did the 1st & 2nd Century Christian understand about Paul’s writings? In his letter to the Church in Corinth, Clement of Rome (A companion of the Apostle Paul) had this to say regarding sharing in the promised reward of God: “But how, beloved ones shall we do this? By fixing our thoughts on God by Faith, by earnestly seeking the things that are pleasing and acceptable to him, by doing the things that are in harmony with his blameless will, and by following the way of truth cast-

ing away from us all unrighteousness and sin.” In a later apology Clement wrote “We are not justified by ourselves. Nor by our own wisdom, understanding, godliness, or works done in holiness of heart. But by faith through which almighty God has justified all men since the beginning.” Polycarp (a personal companion of John) taught, “He who raised him up from the dead will also raise us up...if we do his will and walk in his commandments and love what he loved,” and in another writing quoting from Paul’s epistle: “Many desire to enter into this joy knowing ‘by grace you are saved not of works,’ but by the will of God through Jesus Christ.” Tertullian, who wrote between 190 and 210 AD, recorded in his apologetic works to the Romans, “Some people act as though God were under obligation to bestow even on the unworthy his intended gift. They turn His liberality into slavery... For do not many afterwards fall out of grace? Is not this gift taken away from many?”



**“For by grace you have been saved
through faith, and that not of your-
selves; it is the gift of God.**

Ephesians 2:8

enter the Kingdom, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). “He who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 24:13). The very one who provides the free gift also requires an obedient faith. It may be that the key to understanding Ephesians 2:8 is a simple history lesson.

The key for the early Christians was their balance of John and Paul’s writings of Grace with Christ’s teachings. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall

“The” Faith One Way To God?

By David Henderson

Different names for God?

There are many people these days who believe in God. At least they believe in a monotheistic deity whose designation is determined by their particular religion. Judaism and Christianity call their God “Yahweh” or “Jehovah.” Islam refers to “Allah.” Bahà’is use whichever name for God belongs to the language that is spoken (English=God, Arabic=Allah, Scandinavian=Gud, etc.), holding that different cultures use different languages, but it doesn’t matter which name you use because everyone is referring to one unique deity. This latter idea seems to have taken hold in much of religious thinking--even areas of Christianity. Pope Benedict XVI has made a declaration that “Allah” is, indeed, an appropriate designation for even the God of Judeo-Christianity.

Different ways to God?

Paralleling the movement toward tolerance of all names for God is a movement toward tolerance for all ways to God. Many--even Christians--say that although Christianity leads toward “Heaven,” Islam leads to ethereal sensual gratification, and Buddhism leads to “Nirvana,” all are religions that lead to one place, so why not just personalize the religion that “works for you?”

The Flaw

Work a little exercise with me. Let’s pretend for a moment that all religions are equally valid. Whichever you choose is tantamount to the next.

One major flaw presents itself: True Christianity.

You see, the God of the Bible is unique from any other Gods. He gives Himself a name in Exodus 3:14: “I AM WHO I AM.” The Hebrew word here is “YHWH,” into which are inserted vowels so that it looks like this: YAHWEH. The God of the Bible further exemplifies His singularity in Deuteronomy 6:4: “Hear, O Israel: The LORD (YHWH) our God, the LORD (YHWH) is one!” So far, then, the God of the Bible not only has a name,

but with that name represents Himself as the one and only God. That is not the end of the story,

though. The first two commandments from Exodus 20:1 & 7 are:

- 1) You shall have no other gods before Me, and
- 2) You shall not take the name of the LORD (YHWH) your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Note that not only does the God of the bible claim only one name, but He further demands that He is the only God whom people should rightly serve.

These ideas put the God of the Bible on a completely different level from any other gods. One cannot say that all gods are equally valid, because this God says that He is the ONLY valid God!

The Way

The other idea that has been presented is that there are “many different ways to God.” Again, the God of the Bible singles out His religion. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to the earth, and He died for the sins of all mankind and to grant salvation to whomever would believe on Him (John 3:16). While He was on earth, though, Christ made one statement that rings loud and clear and puts a halt to further conversation about many gods and many ways to God:

John 14:6-- “Jesus said to him, **I am the true and living way: no one comes to the Father except through Me.**”

There is no other God but Yahweh. No religion is satisfactory to His desires other than **true** Christianity. No one will ever find a way to God--no matter how much they enjoy it--except through Jesus Christ.

“There is no other God but Yahweh. No religion is satisfactory to His desires other than true Christianity. No one will ever find a way to God--no matter how much they enjoy it--except through Jesus Christ.”

David Henderson

God's Faithfulness

Yes, God is faithful, too!

By David Henderson

Our Faith

When we hear the word "faith" we tend to automatically think of that characteristic that makes a righteous man righteous. In fact, it *is* through that faith that we are saved, as a couple of authors in this publication have mentioned. It is true: faith is the number one thing that defines the Christian.

God's Faith?

Although it may be awkward to think about at first, we have to understand that God Himself is also faithful! How can that be?

Well, one attribute of faith is also one of the defining characteristics of God: Loyalty. Proving such loyalty to righteousness, Deuteronomy 32:4 describes God as "a faithful God who does no wrong." Paul spoke to Titus of the "hope of eternal life, which **God, that cannot lie**, promised before the world began" (1:2). God is faithful, or loyal, to His word.

The Application of God's Faith

Already we begin to see the role that God's faithfulness plays in our own lives. If God cannot lie, then think of all the promises He has made that already have and that still must come to pass! A list would include: (1) the promises to Abraham of land, nation, Seed, and blessing; (2) the promise to David of a Seed and an eternal throne; (3) the promise to the nation of Israel of a righteous remnant and a coming Messiah; (4) the promise to God's people of eternal salvation; (5) the promise to Christians of blessing on earth and in eternity; (6) etc. etc. etc.

Now make a list of scriptures where God tells of His own faithfulness:

- 1) **1 Corinthians 1:9:** God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.
- 2) **1 Corinthians 10:13:** No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.
- 3) **1 Thessalonians 5:24:** The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

4) **2 Thessalonians 3:3:** But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

5) **1 John 1:9:** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

When God said in the past that He would do something, He did it. No question remains to God's ability to bring things to fruition; but just as important is that no question remains to

His faithfulness to what He has said. God cannot lie.

From now on, when we find ourselves worrying about our lives or what we will wear or put on or about our eternal destiny, we need to understand one thing: the source of that worry is not and has never been God. If God

says you are saved, then you are. If He says He will provide for you, then He will. The source of wavering comes not from God, but from within ourselves. Unfortunately,

we DO have the ability to lie and to be unfaithful. The result is trepidation for what is coming in the future. However, the better we understand our Father, the better we will understand His faithfulness.

"No question remains to God's ability to bring things to fruition; but just as important is also the fact that no question remains to His faithfulness to what He has said."

David Henderson



Get to know your Heavenly Father and watch how quickly your earthly and spiritual worries melt away.



Practical Faith Our Shield

By Craig Sweet

In our daily lives we strive to do the best we can. We pray daily. We attend services and help those who need help. We help our brethren and neighbors and we love and support all those who we come in contact with. However, regardless of all the things that we do, we cannot escape the pains and miseries of this life because there is no relationship between our faith and what suffering we must endure. We continue to focus on the promise of God and our heavenly home, and for most days our faith keeps us striving toward our goal.

There are some days that just seem too hard to handle. We may have a chronic personal illness that we must continue to endure. We may have to deal with sickness or death in our family or with our friends. We are affected by unexpected deaths when they occur by car accident or sudden illnesses. We may have children who disappoint us with some of their decisions or have friends who let us down when we need them most. Yet we continue to put on that smile and when people ask us how we are, we just say “we are doing fine” even though inside of us our hearts are tearing and breaking. What is it that will get us through these times?

James tells us that testing our faith brings endurance (1:3). It is similar to beginning a new workout regimen. Our muscles the next day can barely move, but after a couple of days our muscles rebuild bigger and stronger than before--able to endure more activities the next time. So also is our faith. Some of us are at an age where we can look back at all the events in our lives and see where different events occurred that prepared us for events later in our lives. Sometimes it is hard for us to see that the trials of today are really testing our faith so that we

“When it seems like we just cannot endure any longer, we need to tap into the resource of **faith** in our brethren so that we can receive **encouragement** and endure the afflictions that come our way.”

Craig Sweet

can endure those future events. We are tempted at times to give up and say, “I just can’t bear this any longer.” In I Corinthians 10:13 Paul tells us that God is faithful and will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able, but with each temptation will provide an escape also, so that we can endure it.

We can overcome if we just put our faith in God with the knowledge that he takes care of us. We talk about arming ourselves with our faith by using it as a shield against Satan (Ephesians 6:16). Our faith will protect us if we just trust in it. We must continue to pray to God for strength every day to resist any temptation and to help us with our struggles. We must have absolutely no doubt that if we ask in faith, God will be there for us and will be that anchor of our lives that keeps us steady (James 1:6). We must be firm in our faith and resist the devil. He will do anything he can to exploit any weakness we have. We must resist him by using our shield of faith and knowing that the experiences of suffering are also being incurred by those in the world (I Peter 5:9).

In order to really understand our faith, we must examine ourselves (II Corinthians 13:5). When we know Jesus Christ is in our heart, we will be prepared for whatever life has to throw at us. We should also take comfort in the fact that our brethren are here to lift us up. So when it seems like we just cannot endure any longer, we need to tap into the resource of faith in our brethren so that we can receive encouragement and endure the afflictions that come our way. (I Thessalonians 3:1-3)

Faith & Works

Not Faith V. Works

By Craig Campbell

Historically, there has been much debate in the world of Christianity on the subject of “faith versus works” and how it relates to our salvation. Liberal extremists have always argued that a fundamental belief in the existence of God is enough to grant us salvation, while staunch conservative extremists have always insisted that our salvation is granted on the merit of our works. And if we look in the Bible, it almost seems on the surface that even the writers of the New Testament are divided over the issue.

For example, Paul says over and over in Romans and Galatians that we are justified by faith “apart from the deeds of the law” (Romans 3:28). Galatians 2:16 tells us that “a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ.” But then James throws us a curve-ball in his epistle when he tells us “that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.”

So, who are we to believe? Are James and Paul at odds here? Are they disagreeing on a matter of eternal significance? Well, if we believe in the integrity of the Bible, then there must be some other explanation to this apparent discrepancy.

It seems to me that the debate could be put to rest if only we all understand what it means to have “faith.” Unfortunately, the faith versus works debate has fostered a mindset that puts faith and works at odds with each other, and this mindset can be very destructive. However, if we look a little deeper into the Bible and try to derive our definition of faith from the New Testament writings, then we’ll discover that faith is a very active thing.

For example, when James says that “faith without works is dead,” he’s not taking a side in the faith versus works debate. Rather, he’s defining what faith

is. He’s telling us that faith that isn’t accompanied by works isn’t faith at all. It’s dead! We see this illustrated very plainly in Hebrews chapter 11 where we see that “by faith” people acted on God’s promises and commands. Our faith is what motivates our works.

We do a great disservice when we put faith and works at odds with one another, and half the time, we end up arguing with other people over something that deep down, we all agree with. Sometimes we’re scared of preaching that we are justified by faith, because we’re so afraid that this teaching will lead Christians to think that they can be lazy servants who do nothing for God’s kingdom. What we need to realize, though, is that Jesus Christ has the power to change lives, and if our teachings have instilled true, biblical faith in hearers, then that faith will lead to works.

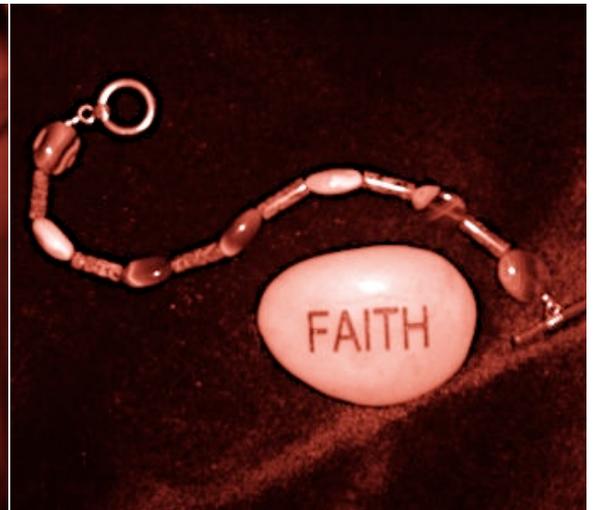
Question: Are you justified by faith apart from works? YES!

Question: Are you justified by works, and not by faith only? YES!

So let’s stop fueling this debate and start teaching about what faith truly is: a living, active reliance on God that motivates us to do great things for His kingdom!

“We do a great disservice when we put faith and works at odds with one another.”

Craig Campbell



Growing Faith

Spiritual Improvement

By Dick Dabney

Everywhere we look, we see examples of people who are growing. Toddlers grow to become youths, and youths grow to become adults. Adults grow in a way that's not so obvious, since they are generally at their adult size and may mostly be subject to changes in bulk. But this whole notion of growing gives us a foundation to understand the idea of growing in spiritual ways just like we grow in physical ways.

KNOW GOD AND GROW CLOSER

We see in God's word that the apostles (Luke 17:5) implored the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And a father desperately seeking help for his demon-possessed son (Mark 9:17-24) declared to Jesus, "I do believe; help my unbelief." These expressions might illustrate our own feelings at times. Surely in our spiritual journey we know some things about our relationship to God, but in our meditation on God's word we see a much greater depth to grow in spiritual things. In the measure that our heart is fully devoted to our God and our Savior, our private thoughts will be calling for our relationship to grow closer and closer.

It's not difficult to see how our belief in and devotion to God can increase as we come to know him better. Perhaps the apostles were actually exploring the Lord to give them even more understanding of the mystery and wisdom and goodness of God. We should have the same yearning, though we live so far removed from those days of face-to-face encounter with the Son of God. And we live in a time where our knowledge of God resides in his word rather than special revelation, so it's vital that we approach God's word with intent to learn all we can about who God is and what he wants of us.

GROW ACCORDING TO GOD'S DIRECTION

Jesus used an example of a growing vine (John 15:1-2) to teach about a vigorous spiritual life. Vine branches that are unfruitful will be taken away, so they don't rob the fruitful branches of the vitality that makes the vine thrive. And even those branches that are fruitful are pruned by the vinedresser so they can be even more fruitful. If a vine branch had feelings and could speak, it would probably say "ouch" when the vinedresser cut off certain parts to improve the growth. In a spiritual sense, we do not enjoy the Vinedresser's pruning, but we can see over

time that this experience grows our spiritual value more and more for the Lord. Each time we are led in this way to improve and grow, our understanding of God's greatness and purpose gets deeper. Our faith grows and our relationship to God becomes closer.

"It's vital that we approach God's word with intent to learn all we can about who God is and what he wants of us."

Dick Dabney

GOD DEMANDS SPIRITUAL GROWTH

If we find it normal to expect physical growth, we should see that God has prepared for us to grow spiritually as well. Paul and Peter referred to Christians who apparently weren't very far developed in spiritual things as babies and infants (1 Corinthians 3:1; 1 Peter 2:1-3), as if that's what they would amount to in physical terms. Does that mean that those spiritual infants were rejected by God? No, not on that basis alone. But the writers clearly suggest that God expects his children to grow in spiritual ways. Just as no right-thinking adult wants to be referred to as childish in physical things, we should work hard in our spiritual development to be sure we are growing to a good measure of spiritual maturity. Proverbs 4:18 gives a profound picture of the life of those who would be God's people: we start out pretty dim, relatively, but he intends us to grow brighter and brighter as we progress in this life. God will help (Psalm 37:23-24; Phillipians 2:12-13) if we'll do all we can for our own growth.



The Unknown Soldier

Luke 7:1-10

By Ron Gray

Names of individuals are permanently written throughout the Bible. Men will read and reflect upon them as long as time continues. Some names are recorded for their shameful conduct and sinful deeds. The names of Cain (Genesis 4:3-8), Jezebel (1 Kings 21), Judas (Matthew 26: 48-50), Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11), and Diotrefes (3 John 9-10) are permanently linked to murder, betrayal, sin, and disgrace. Others inscribed in scripture are honored for their faithfulness. Hebrews 11 lists servants of God from the times of the Old Testament who have done great things “by faith.” The names of these faithful ones include: Abel, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and David.

The Apostles selected by our Lord were ordinary men who, by faith, accomplished extraordinary things. By faith Peter and the other eleven apostles boldly preached the gospel on the day of Pentecost, condemning face to face those who had a part in the Lord’s crucifixion (Acts 2:23, 36) and offering them the Lord’s salvation. These and dozens more are etched into our hearts and minds as examples of faithful lives lived under the loving care of their Heavenly Father.

One name not recorded is that of a centurion, who received an honor greater than name recognition. The Lord Jesus, speaking of this centurion to a crowd gathered about Him, says, “I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel.”

This centurion was not the stereotypical Roman soldier who ruled over people by intimidation (Luke 3:14). He had actually befriended the Jews who had pleaded his case with Jesus. They called him “worthy” and told Jesus that he “loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue.” His servant who was “dear to him” was sick of the palsy and was about to die. The Lord was asked to heal him.

We can form a picture of a powerful man who had opportunity and authority to be harsh or even brutal to the inhabi-

“Be **faithful** until death, and I will give you the **crown of life.**”

Revelation 2:10

tants of Galilee and to his own servant, but he chose to be compassionate, understanding, and even loving. He understood authority having superiors over him and men under his command.

Verse 3 tells us that the centurion “heard” about Jesus. It is unlikely that he had never heard of Jesus before. This probably signifies that he learned who Jesus was, what His mission was, and of the miracles which proved where Christ’s authority originated. Matthew 4:23-25 tells us that Jesus went about Galilee preaching the gospel, healing the sick (including palsy) and being followed by multitudes from across Israel, and having His fame spread across Syria. These things could not be ignored. Even the common man acknowledged that these miracles could not be done unless Jesus was from God (Luke 9:32-33). The enemies of Christ marveled at Him, saying, “No man ever spoke like this man” (John 7:46). The sheer presence and magnitude of Jesus was convincing beyond any doubt within the honest heart.

When Jesus had agreed to come and heal his servant, the centurion sent word that he was not worthy to have the Lord enter his house or even to come out to meet Him. Convinced of the power and authority of Christ, he just said, “Say the word, and my servant will be healed.” The Lord “marveled at him” for his “great faith,” and the servant was healed.

When the Son of God looks upon you and me, will He find “great faith” or will He regrettably have to say, “O you of little faith (Matt. 8:26)?” Jesus tells us, “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

Faith Around The World

letters from evangelists we support

Stefano Corazza
rome, italy

NEWS FROM ROME (Italy)

Rome, August 23, 2007

Dear brethren in the Lord,

my family and I hope to find all of you doing fine in every spiritual blessing. We'd like to express our sincere gratefulness for the opportunity that we have to be in fellowship with you all in the preaching of the gospel in Rome. We are trying to use God's talents gave to us in reaching as many as possible to the Lord. The nature of this work is so hard and delicate that we badly need your prayers, thoughts, patience, generosity.

PERSONAL NEWS. Thanking God, we are all doing fine. Valeria (24) and Paolo (23) are busy with their jobs and both are growing in Bible knowledge and congregational responsibilities. Paolo is doing a nice job in the leading of songs.

About my father in law, Rodolfo Berdini (84 years old), he's still in a long and suffering recovering. He's still very so weak and feeble to hardly be able to walk and be autonomous. As you can figure it out, my wife Antonella (and her sister Rosanna) are under heavy pressure trying to do what they can to give the necessary assistance. We ask for your prayers and thoughts.

My parents Sandro and Elisabetta are doing fairly well, considering their age and physical problems.

My father is still working very hard to his translating work. He already translated and printed several N.T. commentaries, so useful and important for the growth of Christians in this Country.

PREACHING IN ROME. The local work at via Sannio is doing fine. We have good contacts to take care of. Ivano (a friend of our brother Amedeo) is studying with me the Bible weekly and seems to have a good attitude toward it. Also Paoeliana (28 years old, sister of Amedeo) is attending our services showing good interest. She was in my home with her husband and we had a good time together. She's a nice young girl and we hope to help her to find the right way to the Lord.

Marco Soranno (a former member of a liberal church in Rome) decided to place membership with us. He's a young man with a fine knowledge of the Scriptures. He was disappointed with the liberal attitude of some churches he attended and is appreciating our faithfulness to the NT standard. He's doing his best to adjust himself to our group.

Our attendance is about 33 on Sunday and 18 on Thursday mid-week class. My father and I exchange the teaching of classes and sermons, while the college student class is studying the book of "Galatians".

We are planning next Gospel meeting and other initiatives to preach the gospel in our location. We hope to be able to accomplish the projects we're making.

Last Sunday service we had several visitors, relatives of Amedeo. He invited them since he was scheduled to deliver the Sunday sermon. So we met with five new people with whom we hope to continue to study the Bible. Some of them attend a liberal church in Aprilia (40 miles from Rome).

PREACHING IN ANZIO. This preaching opportunity is going just fine. Every Tuesday afternoon (from 5 to 7.30 PM) I preach for this small church of Anzio. The brethren here are improving in knowledge of the Bible and are beginning to take their stand for Truth in front of those who are blaming them for having invited me to preach among them. They are still under pressure but seems to have courage and love for Truth. We'll see.

The Saints in Rome send their greetings, thanking you for the opportunity given me to preach the gospel among them. Your trust and patience are greatly appreciated.

Antonella, Valeria and Paolo send their love and gratefulness.

"They of Italy salute you".

Stefano Corazza

About Us North Beach church of Christ

Very simply, we are a group of Christians.

Hundreds of denominations and ways of seeking God just do not seem to paint the original picture of the church that Christ had envisioned and put forth in His Word. That is why we are glad to just call ourselves “Christians.”

We follow the Bible and only the Bible. We don’t add anything to it, and we don’t take anything away from it. We just try our best to do what Christ said to do! That just seems to make sense.

If you’d like to know more about Jesus Christ, His plan of salvation, or His word, we would love to help however we can!

Are you looking for a church family? We would be so happy to have you.



Service Times

Sunday

9:00 AM--Bible Classes

10:00 AM--Services

5:00 PM--Services

Wednesday

7:30 PM--Services

Location

North Beach Church Of Christ

7025 N. Beach St.

Fort Worth, TX 76137

Phone: (817)232-2568

E-mail: info@nbcoc.org

NORTH BEACHCHURCH OF CHRIST

7025 N. Beach St.

Fort Worth, TX 76137