

**SUBJECT:** The Book of Hebrews.

**TITLE:** What Is Faith?

**PROPOSITION:** To look and see what Biblical faith is.

**OBJECTIVE:** So we will know the meaning of faith.

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Read the text.

2. Regarding the text.

(1) There is a misconception of what constitutes faith.

A. Some view faith as a belief in something for which there is insufficient or no evidence.

B. "(1) : firm belief in something for which there is no proof (2): complete trust" ([http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/faith\[1\]](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/faith[1])).

(2) We cannot go to the dictionary to find out how the Bible defines a word.

A. We must use Bible dictionaries to see how Biblical words are defined.

B. We must go to the Bible to find out how the Bible uses words that are in the Bible.

(3) Let us go to the Bible to see what Biblical faith is.

3. Reference To S.T.P.O.

**DISCUSSION:** IN OUR STUDY LET US NOTICE THAT--

I. FAITH IS BASED UPON KNOWLEDGE.

1. Without knowledge of God's will one cannot have faith in it.

(1) Faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17).

(2) Faith comes from the faith (Rom. 1:16, 17).

2. Faith and knowledge go hand in hand.

(1) We are to abound in faith and knowledge (2 Cor. 8:7).

(2) Both are part of the Christian graces (2 Pet. 1:5).

II. FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE ARE SOMETIMES THE SAME THING.

1. People tend to think that faith is one thing and knowledge is another.

(1) The people who spoke to the woman at the well understood that they were the same (Jno. 4:42).

- (2) The word "believe" involved "knowledge" in as much as they received the gospel which worked in them that believed or had knowledge and an active faith of (1 Thess. 2:13).
2. Faith being linked to knowledge is common in the Bible.
- (1) Paul warned about those who would forbid certain things to those who believe and know the truth (1 Tim. 4:2).
- (2) Jesus did his works that people would know and believe that God was in him (Jno. 10:38).

### III. FAITH IS SOMETIMES USED TO REFER TO THE GOSPEL.

1. Paul's usages of it this way.
- (1) Paul used it this way when he rebuked Peter (Gal. 2:16).
- (2) Paul lived by the faith (Gal. 2:20).
2. Other's usages of it this way.
- (1) James used it this way (Jas. 2:1).
- (2) Peter used it this way (1 Pet. 5:9).

### **CONCLUSION:**

SUMMARY: We have seen that--

1. Faith is based upon knowledge.
2. Faith and knowledge are sometimes the same thing.
3. Faith is sometimes used to refer to the gospel

APPEAL: Faith, in the Bible, is never blind. Even when it is attributed to devils, it is based upon knowledge (Jas. 2:19). Faith is always connected to knowledge and evidence, it always has been and always will be.

Preached at Belle, MO on August 2, 2009, morning lesson.

**SUBJECT:** The Book of Philemon.

**TITLE:** Joy And Consolation in Love.

**PROPOSITION:** To show that the Christian can have joy and consolation in love.

**OBJECTIVE:** So we can begin to have these blessings.

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Read the text.

2. Regarding the text.

(1) Paul states that he had great joy and consolation because of Philemon's acts of love (or acts of charity) towards the saints that needed help.

A. Here, he is leading into what will later become apparent to Philemon: that since Onesimus is now a Christian he must treat him as a brother and not a slave (Phm 16).

B. Paul has to work easy with Philemon because he knows that Onesimus has done wrong and he wants to make it as easy on Onesimus as possible without putting too much of a strain on their friendship; but he does remind Philemon that he (Philemon) does owe Paul (whatever that might be, it isn't stated).

(2) As Christians we can have joy and consolation (comfort) in love whether that love be acts of charity or brotherly love that we are to have for one another.

A. As we perform these acts of charity or have this love for one another we can have joy and comfort.

B. We can also have joy and comfort in love for the world, not the lustful things of the world, but the people of the world.

(3) Let us look at how to have joy and comfort in love.

3. Reference To S.T.P.O.

**DISCUSSION:** WE CAN HAVE JOY AND COMFORT IN LOVE--

I. WE HAVE A COMMON SAVIOR.

1. He was not just a rich man's savior--

(1) Although he said that most rich people would be lost (Mt. 19:24).

(2) He said he came to save the lost (Mt. 18:11).

2. He was not just a poor man's savior--

(1) Although he went among the poor (Mt. 11:5).

- (2) Jesus condemned the rich young ruler for not giving to the poor (Mk. 10:21-23).
- 3. He was everyone's savior; he was common to all.
  - (1) He died for the whole world (Jno. 3:16).
  - (2) He died for all men (Rom. 5:6,8,9).

## II. WE HAVE A COMMON SALVATION.

- 1. There is not one salvation for the rich and one for the poor; there is only one for all.
  - (1) Only in Christ (Acts 4:12).
  - (2) Only in the blood of Christ (Heb. 9:12).
- 2. One cannot buy or earn his way into heaven.
  - (1) Salvation is not for sale (Rom. 6:23).
  - (2) By grace through the faith of the gospel (Eph. 2:8,9).
- 3. This way everyone has an opportunity to receive it.
  - (1) This is why it is so important for us, as Christians to take it to the lost (Mk. 16:15,16).
  - (2) Without it they will be lost (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

## III. WE HAVE A COMMON LOVE.

- 1. Our savior taught us to love one another (Jno. 13:34,35).
  - (1) We can't obey what he taught when we don't love one another (1 Jno. 2:10,11).
  - (2) If we don't love one another, we don't love God (1 Jno. 4:8).
- 2. Our savior taught us to love the lost (Jno. 3:16).
  - (1) Our love for the lost is what drives us to preach the gospel (2 Cor. 5:11).
  - (2) We don't want anyone to be lost in that day (2 Pet. 3: 9).
- 3. Our savior taught us to love our enemies (Mt. 5:43,44).
  - (1) Steven asked for his enemies forgiveness (Acts 7:58-60).
  - (2) Our Lord asked for his enemies forgiveness (Lk. 23:34).

## CONCLUSION:

SUMMARY: We can have joy and comfort in love because

- 1. We have a common Savior.
- 2. We have a common Salvation.
- 3. We have a common Love.

APPEAL: When we see that we have these things in common, we can learn to have joy and comfort in love.

Preached at Belle, MO on August 2, 2009, evening service.