

Sunday Morning – January 7th, 2024

***Welcome To The
New Testament Baptist Church***

***Current Series
Bible Doctrine***

***Today's Message
Saving Faith***

Pastor Jack

Introduction

- **Acts 20:17-21**
- Repentance and faith are the result of the new birth
- Genuine repentance will always be accompanied by genuine faith
 - They are the first fruits of the work of the Spirit
 - Faith is seen by the evidence of repentance

“We must repent, and we must believe. Although it is necessary to discuss these as separate concepts, we must not think that repentance is ever divorced from faith or that faith is ever divorced from repentance. True faith is permeated with repentance, and true repentance is permeated with faith. They interpenetrate one another in such a way that, whenever there’s a true appropriation of the divine provision, you will find a believing penitent and a penitent believer.”

Al Martin

Distinguishing Saving Faith

- **Historical belief – A belief in the facts of scripture from a historical perspective**
 - **Yet no faith in Christ as Redeemer**
- **Intellectual assent – Intellectual assent to the facts of what Jesus did**
 - **The Arminian persuasion would call this saving faith**
- **Saving faith believes that Jesus died “for our sins” (I Cor. 15:3)**

Faith is a Gift of God

- **Ephesians 2:8-9**

- Result of the working of God's power
- Knowledge of scripture is not enough

- **John 6:35-37**

- Apart from Divine influence none of us would believe
- Strips away pride
- Christ must be revealed to us

“[Saving faith is] not just believing that Jesus lived and died. Faith that saves is the confident, continuous confession of total dependence on, and trust in Jesus Christ to meet the requirements on your behalf to give you entrance into God’s Eternal Kingdom. It’s the surrender of your life in complete trust to Him to do what you cannot do.”

John MacArthur

Faith and Works

- **Ephesians 2:8-10**

- Faith is accompanied by repentance from sin
- Faith also enables us to do good
 - I Peter 2:24

- **I Thes. 1:3-10**

- When the gospel comes in power it changes us

- Faith that does not express itself in works is invalid
 - “Even so, faith, if it hath not works is dead being along.” (James 2:17)
 - We change without because we have been changed within (2 Cor. 5:17)
- We get baptized not to be saved or to get faith, but by faith we obey this first work
 - “*But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.*” (Luke 7:30)

“Works that are the outflowing of our salvation are never, then, the root or the basis of our right standing before God, but rather they are the fruit or the demonstration of our true salvation. They testify to the genuineness and reality that we are now His children, that His Spirit lives within, and that the faith that brought us justification continues as a living faith to bring us ongoing sanctification.”

Bruce Ware

The Ground of Faith

- **Christ is the object of our faith**
- **We do not trust in our knowledge of the Bible**
- **Saving faith is trust and reliance on the Lord Jesus Christ alone**
- **Saving faith manifests itself by good works**
- **Salvation is not of works lest any should boast**
 - **Eph. 2:9; Titus 3:5**

We are not saved “by” our faith, but “through” our faith (Eph. 2:8). Faith is only as valid as the object in which I chose to invest it. I can have great faith in the stars or a powerful man or in my personal beliefs, but if the given object is unable to achieve my salvation, the faith is useless. Faith is the connecting chain, the human response that links me to the saving work of Christ.

Randy Smith