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THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7

The Pacific Rim Bible website is supplied to those who are positive to the truth and is supplied to you in grace, therefore there is no charge for any of the material. Over the years the ministry here has produced over 6,000 classes on a variety of biblical subjects. Due to the time involved and physical constraints I am not able to place all the studies on the site, but I do recommend for your own benefit that you study what is there. The series I have put on the site are chosen for two reasons. One, believing that I was led by the Holy Spirit to do so, and two, these studies apply to what believers are going through now in their lives, or will be going through in the future.

The series on “**Positive Mental Attitude Dynamics**”, detailing how to develop a PMA, is so important because of the sea of negativity that we live in and is profitable for everyone in their every day lives and especially for those who are in sales or business. The “**War in the Home**” series is so applicable to the modern family where strife and lusts abound, truly there is a war going on in many of the homes across America. And what about our need for living by faith? Most believers know very little about the nature of faith, yet it is so vital to our walk with God! The series on “**True Faith**” is a comprehensive study on it and answers the questions you might have. The series, “**The Role of the Remnant Elect**” outlines the pitfalls, problems and what Christians will be facing and their roles in the Last Days. I would encourage you to become a “Berean” and study all of them.

The next study I plan on putting on is “**The Laodicean Church**”. The exegesis points us to the inescapable conclusion that we are in the final phase of the Church Age characterized in the Book of Revelation as the Laodicean Church and have been ever since 1960, maybe as far back as 1901. I do request prayers for me, my health and studies, my family and the ministry here; one cannot imagine the attacks of Satan against this ministry.

Matthew 24:12 tells us that in the Last Days, because of the increase of wickedness, (or lawlessness), the love of many, (actually the majority), will grow cold. The original has *agape* for the word for love so we know that we’re talking about believer in Christ, for they are the only ones capable of producing *agape* through the filling of the Holy Spirit. And because *agape* is produced by the Holy Spirit operating in is, it tells us that the majority of Christians will not be filled with the Holy Spirit. They may have a form of spirituality, or religiosity, but not the true filling of the Holy Spirit.

We also see that during this time toward the end many will turn away from the faith, which is what apostasy is, which is what Paul spoke of as one of the chief characteristics of the Church Age prior to the time of the final anti-christ. The Lord also spoke of false prophets who prophesy and teach false concepts. Black will become white in that time, good becomes evil, and evil becomes good, true teachings are replaced by false teachings, false spirituality replaces true spirituality, and even a phony love replaces true love. Peter wrote for us to love each other with an *unfeigned love*, 1 Peter 1:22. If there is an unfeigned love, then there is a feigned love. Only Bible Doctrine gives us the wisdom to discern between the two concepts.

Special attention needs to be given toward the matter of *epignosis* knowledge. God has supplied to every believer in Christ the spiritual apparatus needed to live the Christian life; he supplied it to us at the moment of salvation and he has supplied it to us in grace. In so doing he has rejected all our works and ideas, which usually manifest themselves in human good, works, self-righteousness and religion.

When we believed on Christ as our Savior God regenerated us creating in us a new nature. The new man was created in the image of Christ; it is righteous; it is holy; it is eternal; it is new in time and in quality; it is actually a new species of humanity with Christ as its prototype. It can grow; it can change; it can be strengthened and renewed and its ultimate destiny is to conform to the image of Christ. And because the new nature is spiritual it needs spiritual phenomenon, spiritual food for its growth. It gets this through *epignosis*, through the metabolizing of Bible Doctrine by faith under the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Something else occurred at the moment of our salvation and that is we received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; he came to indwell our bodies thus making us into a temple of the living God, actually it is the entire body of Christ on earth that is the temple of God! There are many aspects of the Holy Spirit's ministry to us, too many to go into detail right here, but suffice it to say that it is the filling of the Holy Spirit and metabolized doctrine in the new nature, which comes by faith in the Word of God, that provides to all believers the power dynamic to live the Christian life. Anything else is man-made religion proceeding out of the arrogance of the flesh nature.

It is the spiritual dynamic of the filling of the Holy Spirit, the new nature and metabolized doctrine in the soul that becomes the issue for the Christian. He needs to understand it, live by it and see how it has been set apart by God and differs from man's works, ideas, efforts and religiosity. The believer needs to ask himself, "Am I getting the teaching of the Word of God in the "church" I attend, am I growing in grace and the knowledge of the Word of God, are my spiritual needs being met, or am I getting entertainment, programs, legalism, the "dog and pony show" and just more religious nonsense?"

God established that he would deal with man on the basis of grace and he sent his Son to usher in this age of grace. "*For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*" John 1:17 One of the aspects of grace is that it rejects man's works- all of them! "*So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. And if by grace it is no longer works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.*"

Romans 11:6

It is faith in Christ, the living Word, by which we appropriate God's grace in salvation. And it is by faith in the written Word that we appropriate God's grace blessings after salvation! It is, therefore, vital for Christians to see the importance of faith and the teaching of the Word of God for their lives and how all the other man-made concepts are not only of no value whatsoever, but can actually get us off track from God's plan of blessing.

Paul wrote, "*For we walk by faith, not by sight*", and there are two sides to faith as there are two sides to a coin. There is the subjective aspect to it that looks at our actual believing and trusting, and there is the objective side that looks at the **object** of our faith, which is to be God the Father and his Word. God has given us exceedingly great and precious promises that we can rest in; he has given us the teachings of his Word through the spiritual gift of the Pastor-Teacher, and he has supplied to us every logistical provision that we will ever need in this life. The believer is to exercise faith and his faith is to rest in the promises and teachings of the Word of God.

In Luke 18:8 the Lord said, "*When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?*" It's a rhetorical question demanding a negative reply; the answer is no! What a sad commentary on God's people who will be alive at that time. It's a statement of a general characterization concerning the church of the last days. It doesn't mean that **every** believer will have departed from the faith principle, just the majority of them, "*At that time many (the majority) will turn away from the faith*", Matthew 24:10. Which is what the apostasy is about described by the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

But we need to clarify the kind of faith that Christ is talking about when he asked, "*Will he find faith on the earth?*" In the Greek it has the definite article the making it *the faith*. Once again this is a reference to *epignosis*, (see series on *Epignosis*), which comes about as the believer is sitting under the doctrinal teaching of the Word of God and metabolizing it by faith. So what we have is that the majority of Christians living in the Last Days will not be taking in doctrine, (which is another characteristic of the Laodicean Church), and metabolizing it by faith and applying it to life.

The question that is put before us is, "Do I want to be one of those who are negative to Bible Doctrine when Christ returns, or in that small group who remains faithful to his Word and living by faith each day?" If the answer is no, I don't want to be in the negative group, then one is going to have to make the necessary decisions now to avoid that in the future. Decisions such as getting under the teaching of the Word of God under the authority of a Pastor-Teacher in a biblical church; living your life each day under the true filling of the Holy Spirit, not the emotional counterfeits you see so much of today; living by faith in the Father, his power, plan and provisions, claiming his promises; not depending upon the system for your needs, or your job, or the government, or other people. It is up to us; we can make the decision that, while the church goes into apostasy and the whole world goes nuts, we can still remain positive to God's Word and living life by faith right up to the time of Christ's return to earth! What do you want to do?

Pastor Mike