
-FAITH-

It does not take faith to believe that God is or exists. Even the demons believe that much. But it does them no good and can never save them.

It does not take faith to believe the historical record that Christ was God manifest in flesh. Demons recognized Him when He was here on earth and testified as to His deity.

The works of the Creator are manifest in all the creation, and as far as believing in His existence, man cannot be excused for not believing.

But faith is something different from just mere belief. I have neighbors. I see them from time to time. I am very thoroly convinced that they exist. But I may not have faith in all of them. That is a very different matter.

Having faith in God means that one trusts Him in every way. When He speaks, faith knows that it is truth. When He does something, faith knows that is for good.

Faith is saying "Amen" to what God has said. One who is rebellious cannot say "Amen" to what God has said for the Word condemns the rebellious. Those who refuse to do what God has revealed to be His will cannot have faith. If they should say "Amen" to His Word, they would be saying it to their condemnation.

When we have faith in a person, we trust that person and believe what he says. So faith has the idea of trust in it.

Somebody has said that faith is "Believing what God has said and acting on it." That more fully explains the word "Amen." That kind of faith is bound to result in action. James realized that to the full when he said that faith could be proven by works, and that without the works, faith was dead.

Just as wisdom is the working out of knowledge, just so faith is the working out of belief. If the active principle is lacking, then it ceases to be faith. It is something dead.

No one can boast that he has a good chance if he merely believes that there is a God. Life does not come that way.

-THE GOOD SHEPHERD-

In John 10 the Lord declared that He was the GOOD shepherd. Now a GOOD shepherd takes good care of the sheep. He does not lose them. A bad shepherd would be careless and lose sheep. But the Lord insisted that He was THE GOOD SHEPHERD, and that the GOOD shepherd would give His life for the sheep. The Lord did just that!

He said that He knew His sheep, and that they knew Him. When they heard His voice, they would follow Him. Then He added the promise that He would give to them eternal life and that they should NEVER PERISH.

Then again He said that the sheep were given to Him by His Father, and that no one could take them away, no not even from the hand of the Father. There is no way in which He could have made plainer the security of those that are His.

But there was opposition to this wonderful doctrine. In the flesh, people will have none of it for they wish to show their works and boast of them. So it was with the Jews, for in verse 31 it says, "Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him." These Jews have many followers today. They will get just as angry when anyone will claim and teach that the Lord is THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

There may be something in the character of the sheep that has something to do with it too. The Father gives Him the sheep. They are picked sheep. They are the kind that will hear and heed His voice. He said to His disciples that they did not choose Him but that He chose them. He and the Father are one, so the choice was made by both.

So the good shepherd keeps the sheep and loses none. The sheep are chosen and they do not stray. Thereby the reputation of the shepherd is sustained, for none is lost.

In spite of the denial of the truth of the Word of God, and in spite of the stoning, He remains THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

-TILL HE COME-

We find these words in 1 Cor. 11:26. In seeking the context and background, we discover that chapters 10 and 11 were written to those whose "fathers were under the cloud, and all passed thru the sea." Then we find that the next chapter is addressed to Gentiles.

This is as we would expect, for we are reminded that the Lord's Supper or Passover (it is called passover or the feast in Chap. 5) could not be observed by any uncircumcised person, whether he be a servant bought with money or an hired servant or any stranger. This law was never changed. See Exod. 12.

To the Jews pertained the kingdom. They expected the King to come to the earth and reign on the throne of His father David. When the Lord was on the earth He preached the kingdom of heaven and offered Himself as the King. He was rejected and murdered by His own people, the Jews. He prayed for their forgiveness and as a result the kingdom was reoffered during Acts by the apostles. His coming was expected all during that period.

But with the final rejection at Acts 28:28, the kingdom has been held in abeyance and the salvation of God was SENT to the Gentiles.

Today a member of the church which is His body does not look for the coming. He has something better. In Phil. 3:20 we find "For our commonwealth exists in the heavens, out of the midst of which commonwealth we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (An explanatory paraphrase). Those who hope for the King and kingdom will see Him coming in the clouds. But those who have the heavenly hope will look from that place for His appearing (Epiphaneia).

This manifestation in the heavens will be before the COMING. So those who are of the BODY will have an earlier and better resurrection.

Today, the person who wills to walk worthy of the calling, be it Jew or Gentile, will not be observing that which is connected with His COMING.

-THE BODY-

The Last Adam, in body, was just as much a creation as was the first Adam. God prepared a body for Him (Heb. 10:5). This body was no more related to Mary than it was to Joseph. It was a Holy Thing (Lk 1:35) and was nourished by Mary in the womb and was born as any other babe. In no way did our Lord have a taint of the fallen creature, but was in the LIKENESS of sinful flesh. Truly He was the Lord from heaven.

The Church which is His Body is also a creation. Of the twain (Jew and Gentile) was made one new man.

The Lord grew up in stature. So it is with the Church. It is growing up unto a temple that shall be an habitation of God in the Spirit. It is growing up unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

Christ attained unto a resurrection from among the dead, not the resurrection of the dead. It was an earlier resurrection. So also with the Church. It has an earlier resurrection and will be glorified with Him in the heavenlies before the advent to the earth and the resurrection of the heirs of the kingdom. This is a better hope. Christ in the Church which is His Body is the hope of glory.

It was prophesied that not a bone of Him should be broken. That was fulfilled literally. The same is also true of the members of the church which is His body. Every member is sealed and made sure of the redemption.

As the Lord appeared in trial and no fault could be found in Him, so with the church. It will appear before the Father holy and without blame, spotless and without wrinkle, unblameable and unreprouvable in His sight.

Where His body is now, some day the church will be. The members have been made to sit with Christ in heavenly places at the right hand of the Father.

All the way thru we find a wonderful identification of the members with Him. This identification makes possible the enjoyment of all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies with Him.

-STUDIES IN JOHN-

#16

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: A young man

1. How can one be a good disciple?
8:31
2. How, and from what, does the truth make folks free?
3. Did they speak the truth in verse 33? Exod. 1:13,14, 2 Chron. 36:20. Luke 2:1.
4. But what greater bondage were they in? 34
5. How do you account for the contradiction of verses 32 and 36? In the first the truth makes free and in the latter the Son makes free.
6. They may have been Abraham's seed according to the flesh, but were they his children?
7. Why were they not Abraham's children?
8. What were they hinting about His parentage in verse 41? Deut. 23:2
9. How does the Lord prove that God is not their Father?
10. Then who was their father? 44
11. What proof was there that this was true?
12. Why was it impossible for them to believe Him?
13. Could they convince Him of sin?
14. What double charge do they then make against Him?
15. Have you ever noticed that when folks cannot prove their stand, they start calling names?
16. Is tasting of death and dying the same thing?
17. What proof do we have here that Abraham will live again?
18. If Abraham was born in 1996 BC, how long had it been till the Lord was speaking here? How long dead?
19. What effect did the words I AM have on the Jews?
20. How did the Lord escape?
21. Was the Lord in such great haste as He went by that He could not see folks? 9:1
22. What did He see?
23. What question did the disciples ask?
24. Why was he blind?

once asked the question, "What lack I yet?" He had come to the Lord with another question which he asked first. He had asked "what good thing" he should do to inherit eternal life. (Matt. 19:16-21)

Of course this was the wrong approach in the first place. Eternal life is the gift of God and is not earned by good works.

But the Lord was patient with him and told him that if he would enter into life he should keep the commandments. Again the young man made a mistake. He asked which he should keep. He should have known from the Scriptures that all were to be kept and that if one were broken, then the whole law was broken. But the Lord still leads him on and mentions a few, such as, adultery, stealing, false witness, honor to his parents, and loving his neighbor as himself. But the young man claimed to have kept all these.

But notice carefully. The Lord did not mention the first four commandments nor the last one. The first said that in one's life there should be nothing before God. That would be idolatry. Also in the NT covetousness is spoken as being idolatry. The Lord did not ask the young man what was first in his life, but He was leading up to it.

After the mention of the commandments which had to do with relationships to others, the young man said he had done all these and then asked, "What lack I yet?" The Lord told him to sell his possessions and give to the poor and he would have treasure in heaven. But that was not all. Selling the possessions was just a means of getting the one great hindrance, which was idolatry, out of the way for the greatest thing of all. The great thing he was to do to inherit eternal life was, "Come and FOLLOW Me."

Other disciples had given up their occupations and business places to follow the Lord. He must have first place. You are not asked to give up things unless they are between you and your Lord. We do well to ask, "What lack I yet?"

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

BIBLE CLASS each Tue. nite at 7:45 at the WRS^v studios, Times Bldg., in Warsaw. You are welcome to come.

TRUTH FOR TODAY monthly paper is free. Just ask for it. Send in names of those who might be interested.

BIBLES: Have 4 Companion Bibles in leather at \$24 each. A few in Buckram at \$12 each. Do not know when I will be able to get more of these as they are going out of print.

BOOKS: Price list of last month still in effect. Stock is low; more coming.

SALE: 2 copies Englishman's Greek Concordance, \$8 each. One copy LXX with English Translation, \$6.30. Two copies Vol. I Thy Testimonies, \$2 each. Twelve sets of 18 pamphlets by Welch at \$2 a set. (No more sets after these are gone) Only 14 copies of ALL TRUTH by Mills left at 75¢ each. Do not know whether I will be able to get more books by Mills. All books postpaid.

VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Hinken of Grand Rapids, Mich. dropped in Aug. 12 and stayed for the radio program and the Bible Class. Daniel Hanes of Bremen spent the evening with us Aug. 18. Mr. and Mrs. Marlyn Clark of Urbana, Ill., and his parents of Appleton, Wis., visited with us a while Aug. 23.

FARM NEWS: Last cutting of hay is in the barn. Had to hire most of this done. Had to turn the cows into one field of hay

which no one seemed to have time to cut for us when ready. Am letting out wheat ground on shares and one field is plowed. There are soy beans in the other field for wheat and they are ripening fast. We have been using the organic method of gardening this year again and things have been real nice. Due to hay fever, I am not getting all done that I had planned.

BIBLE STUDY: There has been some response to the proposal of Bible study made last month. If interested in a few days or weeks of study, write.

CONFERENCE: There will be a conference at Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 26 under the auspices of the Grand Rapids Bible Class. It will be at the Morton Hotel. Two sessions, one at 10 A M and the other at 3 P M. Hope to see many of my friends from that area then.

RECORDER: A Bible class at Palmerston North, N. Z., is trying to find a recorder they can use so as to make use of some of our tape recordings of Bible lessons. Are any other classes interested? This service is free.

THANK for all your letters and prayers in behalf of my health. Improvement is slow, but am making progress.

NEW BOOK LIST is not out yet.

CAMERA: Finally found where I could get films for my old speed camera. Some are on the way from Stuttgart, Germany.

WRITE: We enjoy your letters.

Oscar M. Baker. Tel. Atwood 2684.

TRUTH FOR TODAY
R 2, WARSAW, IND.
U. S. A.

Sec. 562, P.L. & R.

POSTMASTER;
If unable to deliver, notify on
FORM #3547.