

22nd February 2015

By the Faith of Christ, we are justified & we are to live (Pt 2 Faith).

## Introduction.

This is our second study on the topic of faith in the Scriptures.

## Previous points covered in Pt 1

1. To have faith is to believe God, and
2. To have faith is to believe what we do not see, and
3. To have faith is to wait in hope for that which we cannot see.

Three points are established from the Scriptures for this second study.

1. Faith is needed for a person to please God, and
2. Christians are justified by the faith of Jesus Christ, and
3. Christians live by the faith of the Son of God.

## Our three points in more detail.

1. Faith is needed for a person to please God.

### Supporting Verse.

Heb.11: 6 "But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

### Context and meaning of our verse.

\* Our chapter is often referred to as the "faith chapter", where it begins with an explanation of what is faith (as we established in our third point in our previous study). "By it (faith) the elders obtained a good report" (verse 2), through it the "worlds were formed (verse 3), and "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain" (verse 4), and "By faith Enoch was translated" (verse 5).

\* In the middle of the list of elders is our verse (6) "But, without faith it is impossible to please him", and then adds "for he that cometh to God must believe that he is".

\* Following our verse there are more examples of great men of faith who believed God whom they could not see, and it was **their faith** that pleased God.

\* Hence our point, "faith is needed for a person to please God."

### Other scriptural support.

Heb.11: 5 "By faith Enoch was translated, and before his translation...he pleased God."

### Scriptural examples.

\* Today we have the example of Paul who pointed out that "it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." By inference; those who believe the preaching please God.

### Application of our verse today.

\* A man must believe God exists, he must believe His Son died for his sin on the cross. He cannot see that his sins are on Christ, nor can he see God, but he believes, and that is what God requires from a lost man today. He must believe the record of God, otherwise he calls Him a liar (1Jn.5: 10).

### Illustration.

\* Verse 39 of chapter 11 ends with "received not the promise." Hence all those mentioned in Heb. 11 did not receive or see the promise of God, which refers to His promised Messiah.

\* A person pleases God when they have faith, when they believe God will fulfil His promises. One of those promises identified in His Holy Writings is that **He** will preserve **His** words that **He** gave by inspiration. Any man that attends a modern-day Bible College like Laidlaw College will be taught that God has **not** kept His promise to preserve His words because what we have today is a mass of manuscripts, and the **scholars** are doing the best **they** can to provide the church with a translation that is closest to the originals. Now, that sounds very scholarly, very diligent of them, but it tells God and the student that has discernment, that the Lord has **not** kept His promise of preservation.

Learning from our Illustration.

\* Do those who accept a counterfeit copy of His Holy Writings, and by inference do not believe God's promise of preservation please Him? Does the minister, pastor, preacher, or elder that teaches from a corrupt copy of the Holy Scriptures please God? Do such men believe **all** of God's promises, and teach others to do the same? It is impossible to please God without faith, and faith includes believing **all** that God has promised.

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Believe God and not man, believe ALL of God's promises and you will be certain not to please all the main-stream churches today, but you **will**, according to the Scriptures please God. Let us remember that faith, belief in the Lord and His word, is needed for a person to please God!

## 2. Christians are justified by the faith of Jesus Christ.

Supporting Verse.

Gal.2: 16 "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

Context and meaning of our verse.

\* Paul was rebuking Peter for eating with Gentiles when the Jews were not present, but then when they were "come, he withdrew and separated himself". Paul challenged him: "why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?" (verse 14).

\* Verse 16 is a comparison between the justification under the law and that which a believer receives in the church age. Paul points out that under the law justification was received by works of the law (perhaps only by the works of the law, because we know that it is faith plus works that justified a man under the law). Whereas under Christ, a man is justified by faith (only) in Christ.

Other scriptural support.

Gal.3: 22 & Eph.3: 12.

Learning from our verse.

\* How do we understand the phrase "faith of Christ"? Are we justified by Christ's faith? Or do we come up with a different answer when we go back to the context of the verse and see a man is not

Illustration.

\* A "Christian" prays to the Lord asking for his mother to be healed, believing that she will be healed because he reads that "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you" (Jn.16: 23). So without wavering He asks God to save his mother. But she dies and so he chooses not to believe God any more.

Learning from our Illustration.

\* The trial of his mother dying was not to prove to God if his faith was real or not, and as he failed he is now outside of the body of Christ, because if that is how we are saved, by **our faith**, which needs to be tested as Abrahams was before he was justified (c.p. Gen.15: 6 with 22: 9), then we are not saved by **the faith of Christ**.

\* Today when a man **believes in his heart** that Christ died for his sin, and that he was buried, and rose again from the dead, and he calls on His name, from that moment on he is saved from the pit of hell. God does a work and makes him into a new creature (2Cor.5: 17). God does **not** need to prove to anyone that the man has faith, he can see that he believes in his heart, so he makes him a new creature, and he is justified by the faith of Christ from the moment he believes.

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Let us believe God and **know** that we only need a little faith, we only need to believe the gospel of Christ crucified in our heart, for the Lord Jesus to impute His faith to us that we might be justified before the Father by Christ's faith.

## 3. Christians are to live by the faith of the Son of God.

Supporting Verse.

Gal.2: 20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Context and meaning of our verse.

\* Paul was rebuking Peter for eating with Gentiles when the Jews were not present,

\* Then in verse 16 – "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ" (which was covered in our previous point).

In verse 19 Paul changes the topic to living unto God now that he is dead to the law. And in our verse (20) he points out that he is crucified with Christ (not physically), because he goes on to say that "nevertheless I live", but the person that is living is not himself but Christ that lives in me (hence he must die to his own self (1Cor.15: 32), and this life that he now lives in the flesh, he lives by the faith of the Son of God". Hence Paul lives by **the faith of the Son of God**, not by his own faith as we see in Hab.2: 4. ("the just shall live by his faith"). So again Christians are in a very unique situation, where not only are we justified by the **faith of Christ**, but once justified we live by the **faith of Christ**, which he imputes to us (as established from our previous point).

Other scriptural support.

2Cor.5: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight).

Application of our verse today.

\* Jesus identified those who had little faith, (Matt.8: 26 & Lk.8: 25) and those who had great faith, and we see in the Old Testament that the great men of God had great faith and were identified in Heb.11. But today, just as a man does not, and cannot walk perfectly upright before God, the Lord imputes His righteousness, so he walks not in his own faith (which is either frail, great or little), but rather he lives by the faith of Christ.

Illustration.

\* There are believers who live solely by faith to provide for them and their families and there are those who live each day seeking counsel from God in every small detail of their lives. Either one of those examples could either live by their faith, or by the **faith of Christ**.

Learning from our Illustration.

\* How do you practically live by the faith of the Son of God?

\* The same way we are to live uprightly before God, yet we all sin: we die to our sin, and live knowing that we are imputed with the righteousness of Christ.

\* Picking up that example of living uprightly before God, we say that believers are to live in faith, acknowledging that our faith is frail, we die to our lack of faith, trusting that Christ imputes to us His faith. How does this work out practically in our lives? By believing that once saved we are to live by the **faith of Christ**, and asking God to help us to live each day, each moment by the faith of Christ, and not getting discouraged when we struggle in faith, and not judging others for their lack of faith.

Challenge & or encouragement.

Let us know that we have the faith of Christ and be secure in that knowledge each day that we would walk not by sight but by the faith of Christ.

Summary of our three points.

1. Faith is needed for a person to please God, and
2. Christians are justified by the faith of Jesus Christ, and
3. Christians live by the faith of the Son of God.