

Sermon Outline: The Doctrine of Faith, Salvation, and the Dangers of Hyper-Calvinism

I. Introduction and Context

- **Opening Remarks**
 - Preference for teaching truth over focusing on false doctrines.
 - Brief mention of hyper-Calvinism and its errors; detailed handout to be provided next week.
 - Importance of understanding doctrinal errors as they arise in context.
 - **Silent Prayer**
 - Confession of sin and preparation for the filling of the Spirit.
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II. The Armor of God and Spiritual Warfare

- **Ephesians 6:15**
 - "And having strapped to your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace."
 - Exegetical Note: This verse is often misapplied to evangelism; context is spiritual warfare.
 - Roman soldiers' footwear (spikes/cleats) provided sure footing in battle.
 - Application: The gospel provides stability and protection against doctrinal attacks, especially on salvation.
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III. The Nature of Faith

- **Definition**

- Faith is a non-meritorious system of perception.
 - Not inherently religious; used in daily life (e.g., trusting information about unseen things).
 - God chose faith as the means of salvation for a specific reason.
 - **Misconceptions about Faith**
 - Hyper-Calvinism: Makes faith a work; teaches limited atonement (Christ died only for the elect).
 - Refuted by Scripture (see below).
 - **The Importance of the Object of Faith**
 - The validity of faith depends on its object, not its intensity.
 - Only faith in Christ has merit; faith in anything else, no matter how strong, is futile.
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IV. Faith Illustrated in Scripture

- **John 6:35**
 - "I am the bread of life; the one who comes to Me will not be hungry, and the one who believes in Me will never be thirsty."
 - **John 6:53-56**
 - Eating/drinking as metaphors for faith; not works, but reception.
 - **Faith as Used in Different Contexts**
 - Faith for salvation (active).
 - Faith as doctrine or the body of beliefs (passive).
 - Faith as faithfulness/reliability (attribute).
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V. Systems of Perception

- **Rationalism:** Knowledge by reason (IQ).
- **Empiricism:** Knowledge by experience.
- **Faith:** Knowledge by trust in the testimony of another.
- **1 Corinthians 1:29-31**

- God chose faith so that no one may boast; salvation is not based on intellect or experience.
 - "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9**
 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."
 - Exegetical Note: "This" (neuter in Greek) refers to the entire preceding statement, not just faith or grace.
 - **John 1:12**
 - "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."
 - Reception precedes the power to become children of God.
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VI. The Greek Word for Faith: Pistis

- **Active Meaning:** Faith as exercised in salvation.
 - **Passive Meaning:** Faith as the content of doctrine.
 - **Attribute:** Faithfulness/reliability.
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VII. The Faith-Rest Life

- **Hebrews 4:2-3**
 - The faith-rest drill: Mixing faith with the promises of God.
 - Stage 1: Mixing faith with promises.
 - Stage 2: Doctrinal rationales (e.g., sovereignty of God, essence of God).
 - Stage 3: Doctrinal conclusions.
 - **1 Peter 1:7-8**
 - Faith tested by fire results in praise, glory, and honor.
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VIII. Faith and Doctrine

- **Galatians 1:23**
 - "Preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy."
 - **1 Timothy 1:19**
 - Shipwreck in faith (not loss of salvation, but loss of doctrinal stability).
 - **1 Timothy 4:1, 4:6, 4:10**
 - "Some will fall away from the faith" (the body of doctrine).
 - 1 Timothy 4:10: "Who is the Savior of all mankind, especially of believers."
(Refutes limited atonement.)
 - **1 Timothy 6:10**
 - Wandering from the faith due to love of money.
 - **2 Timothy 2:18, 4:7**
 - Jeopardizing the faith of some; keeping the faith (doctrinal perseverance).
 - **Titus 2:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:4**
 - Faith as faithfulness/reliability.
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IX. The Mystery Doctrine

- **Romans 16:25**
 - The mystery doctrine is not the gospel; the gospel was never a mystery in the Old Testament.
- **Ephesians 3:3-5**
 - The mystery revealed to Paul: Church Age truths not revealed in the Old Testament.
 - Examples: Union with Christ, indwelling of the Trinity, pre-designed plan of God, royal priesthood, filling of the Spirit, spiritual gifts.
- **1 Peter 1:10-12**
 - OT prophets searched for the grace to come; salvation by faith was always the means.
- **Genesis 15:6**
 - "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."
- **Galatians 3:8**
 - The gospel preached beforehand to Abraham.

X. Typology: The Bronze Serpent

- **Numbers 21:4-9**
 - The bronze serpent as a type of Christ: Look and live (faith alone).
 - No rituals or works required; only faith.
 - **Romans 4:5**
 - "But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness."
 - **John 3:14-15**
 - "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes will have eternal life in Him."
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21**
 - Christ made sin for us; the serpent symbolizes sin.
 - **Romans 8:3**
 - Christ came in the likeness of sinful flesh to condemn sin in the flesh.
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XI. The Danger of Adding to the Gospel

- **Romans 11:6**
 - "If it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace."
 - **2 Corinthians 11:3-4**
 - Warning against another Jesus, another gospel, another spirit.
 - **Genesis 3:1**
 - The serpent's subtlety: "Has God really said...?"
 - **Galatians 1:6-9**
 - Paul's warning against any distortion of the gospel; Judaizers added law to grace.
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XII. The Consequences of Doctrinal Corruption

- Subtle error leads to:
 - Loss of assurance.
 - Focus on self and performance.
 - Legalism, fear, burnout.
 - Confusion between justification and sanctification.
 - Fear-based Christianity and spiritual shipwreck.
 - **Key Principle:** Only what God does through us, in His power, counts for eternity.
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XIII. The Simplicity of the Gospel

- **Acts 16:31**
 - "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."
 - Exegetical Note: Each individual must believe; not automatic household salvation.
 - **Witnessing**
 - The gospel is good news: Christ paid for all sin; unbelief, not sin, condemns.
 - Avoid adding works, commitment, or performance to the message of salvation.
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XIV. Closing Exhortations

- The devil's attacks are subtle, not overt.
 - The purity of the gospel must be maintained; faith alone in Christ alone.
 - Remember: We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces (Ephesians 6:12).
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XV. Closing Prayer

- Thanksgiving for the Word and prayer for application and growth in grace.

Scripture References (Chronological Order)

1. Ephesians 6:15
2. John 6:35
3. John 6:53-56
4. 1 Corinthians 1:29-31
5. Ephesians 2:8-9
6. John 1:12
7. Hebrews 4:2-3
8. 1 Peter 1:7-8
9. Galatians 1:23
10. 1 Timothy 1:19
11. 1 Timothy 4:1
12. 1 Timothy 4:6
13. 1 Timothy 4:10
14. 1 Timothy 6:10
15. 2 Timothy 2:18
16. 2 Timothy 4:7
17. Titus 2:10
18. 2 Thessalonians 1:4
19. Romans 16:25
20. Ephesians 3:3-5
21. 1 Peter 1:10-12
22. Genesis 15:6
23. Galatians 3:8
24. Numbers 21:4-9
25. Romans 4:5
26. John 3:14-15
27. 2 Corinthians 5:21
28. Romans 8:3

- 29. Romans 11:6
 - 30. 2 Corinthians 11:3-4
 - 31. Genesis 3:1
 - 32. Galatians 1:6-9
 - 33. Acts 16:31
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Key Doctrinal Points

- Faith is the only non-meritorious means of salvation; the object (Christ) is what matters.
- The gospel is simple: faith alone in Christ alone.
- Adding works, commitment, or performance to the gospel corrupts grace and leads to bondage.
- The mystery doctrine of the Church Age is distinct from the gospel and was not revealed in the Old Testament.
- The devil's primary attack is on the gospel, often through subtle distortions.
- Assurance, growth, and spiritual victory depend on maintaining the purity of the gospel and walking by faith.