

We Perish for Lack of Knowledge:  
Return to Elementary School, Part 6  
Faith in God  
September 16, 2018

I **SLIDE** Repentance

A) **Luke 24:46-49 ( NIV )** <sup>46</sup> [Jesus] told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

- 1) **SLIDE** Jesus clearly tells us that because He suffered, because He died, and because He rose from the dead, REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS will be preached
- 2) It is because of Jesus that we have this message to preach
- 3) This message of repentance will be preached in the name of Christ to all nations

B) No other name!

- 1) **Acts 4:12 ( NIV )** <sup>12</sup>Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."
- 2) And this brings us to the second truth: faith in God

II **SLIDE** Faith in God

A) Faith

- 1) conviction of the truth of anything
- 2) believing someone
- 3) trust
- 4) confidence in the truth of someone or something
- 5) firm persuasion
- 6) faith is active and results in action

B) Cannot live without faith

- 1) Faith in each other
- 2) Faith that companies will keep our data safe
- 3) Faith that the waiter or waitress is not going to steal your credit information
- 4) Faith in medicine or doctors

C) In each of these situations, we place our trust, our belief, our confidence in each of these people or industries

- 1) That faith is not a passive faith
- 2) We act on that faith every day
- 3) We count on that faith and that trust guides our lives

D) Higher faith

- 1) People can place their ultimate faith in
  - a) People (Trump or anyone who opposes Trump)
  - b) Fate or luck (themselves)
  - c) Money
  - d) Science
  - e) False religions
- 2) **SLIDE** None of these require us to repent or forgive
- 3) None of these require us to change in any way
- 4) Instead, placing our faith in these things allows us to cling to our lifestyles while hoping everyone and everything else changes
- 5) None of these will bring us to repentance and forgiveness because none of these will bring us to Christ
- 6) Thus, Paul's statement that we must have faith in God!!!

E) **SLIDE** Faith in God is the

- 1) conviction that God exists
- 2) creator and ruler of all things,
- 3) the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ
- 4) belief that God means what He says

F) An evangelist was holding special meetings for boys and girls. One day after the children's meeting, little Helen came home, rushed into her father's study, threw her arms around him, and said, "Daddy, I am a Christian!"

"Well, Helen, I am glad to hear that," said her father. "When did you become a Christian?"

"This afternoon, Daddy," she replied. He asked her to tell him what had occurred. "Oh," she said, "the evangelist told us that Jesus Christ was there in the room and that, if we would receive Him, He would come in and live in our hearts and make us His own; that He would receive us."

"Well," he said, "go on; tell me what else happened."

"Why," she said, "I received Him and Jesus took me in."

"But how do you know that when you received Jesus He took you in?" the father persisted.

She gave him a look which he would never forget as she answered, "Why, Daddy, because He said He would!"

### III **SLIDE** Faith in God is not blind faith

#### A) Scriptures

1) **Hebrews 11:1 ( NIV )** <sup>1</sup>Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

2) **Hebrews 11:1 ( ICB )** <sup>1</sup>Faith means being sure of the things we hope for. And faith means knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.

B) My aunt and uncle had a missionary family visiting. When the missionary children were called in for dinner, their mother said, "Be sure to wash your hands."

The little boy scowled and said, "Germs and Jesus. Germs and Jesus. That's all I hear, and I've never seen either one of them."

—Vesper Bauer

1) Faith is not based upon blindness or imagination or whims

- 2) It is based upon the ability to know something is real even if we cannot see it
  - 3) Newton - gravity
  - 4) Einstein - theory of relativity and more
  - 5) Edison - light bulb
  - 6) Bell - telephone
  - 7) Wright Brothers - flying
  - 8) Jobs - Apple computer
  - 9) Holograms - Roy Orbison
  - 10) These people had faith in what they could not see.
  - 11) They knew these ideas were possible because of the evidence around them
- C) **SLIDE** Faith in God is based upon evidence that can't always be seen
- 1) Creation
    - a) **Hebrews 11:3 (NIV)** <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.
    - b) we are not evolutionary mistakes or pieces of luck
    - c) the world is too complicated and too beautiful to be a haphazard piece of random influences
    - d) our world is supported by the account in *Genesis*
  - 2) Jesus
    - a) No one denies He lived
    - b) Great teacher
    - c) Healed many
    - d) Never committed a wrong
    - e) Was killed
    - f) Hundreds witnessed His resurrection
    - g) Based upon the evidence and faith, I believe Jesus is the Son of God

#### IV **SLIDE** Faith in God is absolutely necessary

A) **Hebrews 11:6 ( NIV )** <sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

- 1) Faith
  - a) Not a hope God exists
  - b) but a conviction that He exists
- 2) Impossible
  - a) without strength, impotent, disabled
  - b) without power
- 3) Please
  - a) to gratify
  - b) to delight
- 4) **SLIDE** Without faith, we have no power or ability to delight God
- 5) We must have faith in God in order to come to Christ
- 6) If we do not have faith in God then we cannot have faith in Jesus, His Son
- 7) We must have faith to believe that God exists
- 8) It takes faith to believe that God will not reject anyone
- 9) Faith is what convinces us that if we repent, God will grant us forgiveness THROUGH Jesus

B) **SLIDE** Very important point!

- 1) **Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV)** <sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
  - a) *Elohim*, the Name of the One, True God
  - b) One, singular
  - c) FIRST
- 2) **Hebrews 6:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,
  - a) Greek for "God" comes from *Theou*, originally used by pagans
  - b) Plural for gods

- c) New Testament uses *Theos*, singular in place of Hebrew *Elohim*
- d) Thus, Paul clearly tells us that one of the elementary truths of our faith is in God, *Elohim*, the great I AM, the Father of Jesus Christ

C) **SLIDE** Scriptures

- 1) **Romans 1:17 (NIV)** <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."
- 2) **2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)** <sup>7</sup> We live by faith, not by sight.

D) **SLIDE** Our reality is to be based upon God, the Father

- 1) World is not going to fall apart until all of God's word has been fulfilled
- 2) Yes, we are seeing the times of which Jesus warned us
- 3) We are seeing our nation turn from God, ignore His word, and laugh in His face
- 4) We witness the world encroaching on the church instead of the church encroaching on the world
- 5) We see the church divided against itself
- 6) We must turn to Jesus for forgiveness and salvation
- 7) **2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (NIV)** <sup>13</sup> "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, <sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
  - a) Repent from acts that lead to death
  - b) Have faith in God that He will hear and heal our land

E) The Turks, having tortured and slain the parents of a little Armenian girl before her eyes, turned to the child and said, "Will you renounce your faith in Jesus, and live?" She replied, "I will not."

"Then to the dogs!" she was thrown into a kennel of savage and famished dogs and left there. The next morning, they came and looked in, to see the little girl on her knees praying, and beside her

the largest and most savage of all the dogs, snapping at every dog that ventured near, thus protecting the child. The men ran away terrified, crying out, "There is a god here; there is a god here."

- 1) Faith in God is not saying, "Thank You, Lord," after
- 2) Faith in God is saying, "Thank You, Lord," before