

Thursday

May 21

Lesson 8- HAVING FAITH

The Faith of Jesus

- Signs confirm faith they don't produce it
- Faith outlasts opposition
- feelings have their place but they need to know their place
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Lamentations 3

Before we have faith in Jesus, we have the faith of Jesus, or as the Old Testament describes it - the faithfulness of Jesus!

Context of Lamentations - Jeremiah buy land in occupied Israel.

Context of Romans 3 - no one is seeking after God - not Gentile and not Jew - Genesis 3 - God is seeking after us. Why? He has faith that even though we have been deceived into thinking that He is the bad guy we will change when we see the truth. Where do we see the truth about God?

Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the light" In His life, death and resurrection God has in Jesus Christ purchased land in enemy territory. We, every human being, is that land.

In Jesus Christ God has given each one of us a measure of faith. Jesus is the author and

finisher of faith. What are we going to do with this faith that has been given to us by God? What are we going to do with the faith of Jesus?

Revelation 14:12 strongly suggests that we keep it!

As this world comes to a close, part of the three angels' messages describes God's people keeping the commandments of God and having the faith of Jesus.

Read Revelation 14:12. What does "the faith of Jesus" mean?

ROMANS 3:22 CONTEXT; 1 COR. 1:1-9; (2 COR. 2;) 1 THESS 5:24; 2 THESS 3:3; 1 TIM. 1:12-16; 2 TIM

2:13; (REMAINS FAITHFUL-CANNOT DENY HIMSELF) ;

TITUS 1:9; END WITH HEBREWS 10:13 PERFECT BLEND

OF FAITH OF JESUS; HEB 11:11; 1 JOHN 1:9.

FIND SERMON NOTES FROM THE FAITH OF JESUS I & II

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT REVELATION 14:12.

[CONTEXT - EVERLASTING GOSPEL - QUICK OVERVIEW OF 3 ANGELS MESSAGE -]

SUMMARY - KEEP - LET'S PAUSE FOR A SECOND THERE. KEEP! THE WORD KEEP IN AN EVERLASTING GOSPEL SETTING MAKES OR BREAKS THE MEANING OF THIS TEXT.

YOU SEE THE "EVERLASTING GOSPEL" IS THE TITLE UNDER WHICH EVERYTHING WE READ MUST BE DEFINED FOR THESE VERSES IN REVELATION ARE THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL. THEY ARE NOT ADDITIONS TO THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL BUT RATHER THEY ARE DEFINED BY THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL.

READ VERSE 6 AGAIN.

AND THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL IS THE UNILATERAL PROMISED GIFT OF SALVATION GIVEN TO US BY THE FAITH OF JESUS.

SO KEEP MUST NECESSARILY BE DEFINED IN THAT CONTEXT. WE ARE THEN TO KEEP WHAT THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL HAS GIFTED TO US.

KEY TO MY CAR. KEEP IT.

NOW DON'T MISS THIS. THERE IS A LOT OF EFFORT NEEDED IN KEEPING WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US. WE FIGHT AGAINST THE DEVIL AGAINST THE FLESH AGAINST EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD TO KEEP WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US. BUT HERE'S THE POINT. WE ARE KEEPING WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US. WE DON'T KEEP ON TRYING TO GET SOMETHING THAT ALLUDES US. WE KEEP WHAT JESUS ACCOMPLISHED FOR US-AS US.

JESUS BECAME A MAN AND LIVED A PERFECT LIFE. HE DIED AS THE SECOND ADAM TAKING FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SINS OF THE

FIRST ADAM AND ALL OF HIS DESCENDANTS. AND THEN JESUS RESURRECTED FROM THE GRAVE TO A GLORIOUS ETERNAL LIFE RETAINING THE HUMANITY OF ADAM AND ALL HIS DESCENDANTS. ALL OF THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED FOR US-AS US- AS A HUMAN BEING. IT IS OUR SALVATION. AND WE ARE TO KEEP IT.

THE DOING, DYING AND DEATH DEFYING LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE GOSPEL. (1COR 15:1-4).

THIS IS THE GOSPEL FOUNDATION: DOING, DYING, DEATH DEFYING.
DOING - PERFECT LIFE - LAMB WITHOUT SPOT
DYING - SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH
DEATH-DEFYING - RESURRECTION

NOW THE DEVIL HAS 1000 WAYS TO TAKE FROM US THE GIFT THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US SO THAT WE DON'T KEEP IT. ONE OF THE WAYS THE DEVIL WORKS IS BY TRYING TO CONVINCE US THAT WE NEED TO WORK OUT OUR A SALVATION THAT IS NOT BY FAITH ALONE IN WHAT CHRIST ACCOMPLISHED. THIS THEOLOGY MAY SUGGEST THAT CHRIST WAS PRIMARILY OUR EXAMPLE TO SHOW US HOW WE CAN DO WHAT HE DID. A VERY SUBTLE COUNTERFEIT TO THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL.

TRULY JESUS WAS OUR EXAMPLE. HE SHOWED US HOW WE CAN LIVE A LIFE OF HOLINESS. BUT THAT LIFE THAT WE LIVE BY HIS GRACE IS THE FRUIT OF SALVATION. OUR SANCTIFICATION, OUR HOLY LIVING IS NOT THE MEANS BY WHICH WE ARE SAVED. IT IS NOT MERITORIOUS FOR SALVATION. THE IDEA THAT OUR GOOD WORKS DONE BY GODS GRACE SOMEHOW MERIT SALVATION IS WHOLLY CATHOLIC-AND CONFUSING. THIS CONFUSION FALLS WHEN THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL IS PREACHED.

If you study how Seventh-day Adventists have understood justification by faith, you'll see that in the 1890s, an understanding of the

faith of Jesus and the three angels' messages was consolidated in the church. Up until then, the church had put a great deal of emphasis on the law, and it needed more of a gospel emphasis. Ellen G. White summarized it well: "The commandments of God have been proclaimed, but the faith of Jesus Christ has not been proclaimed by Seventh-day Adventists as of equal importance, the law and the gospel going hand in hand."—*Selected Messages*, book 3, p. 172.

Although Hebrews 11 lists godly men who had strong faith, no one has had faith that is comparable to Jesus' faith.

Read Matthew 26:36-42. What does this tell us about the faith of Jesus at this crucial moment?

When we have the faith of Jesus, this means not only that, by obedience to Him and His Word we will emulate the faith that He had in God, but also that we will have an active and living daily experience with Jesus. It's knowing and acting on the fact that without making Jesus the center of our daily lives, we can't have a saving relationship with God.

Having the faith of Jesus means to have Jesus abiding in us, and thus His faith in our hearts, for Jesus is the true foundation of our faith. At times our faith might be weak and feeble. But Jesus is worthy (Rev. 5:9), and we can have His faith, both reflected in our own experience and being credited to us, by His gift of grace to all who believe.

How much do you want the faith of Jesus?
Humbly ask God to give this to you and claim
Hebrews 11:6 as your personal prayer, saying,

"Lord, without faith it's impossible to please
You. I come to You and believe that You are, and
that You will reward me when I diligently seek
You. I do so now."