Bloomington, IN March 28, 2019

Thursday

Faces of Faith

*Saving Faith*

Introduction: Opening Slide

Click Sin is a real problem. All of us at some point in time as we move from being a child to an accountable child of God sin. We violate the law of God.

Slide We miss the mark.

Click Romans 3:23 – the problem of sin escapes no one.

Click Romans 3:10 “As it is written: "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE;

Click Romans 6:23 – “for the wages of sin is death”

Click Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

We all need to be saved from our sins and God’s gift was His Son.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin *is* death, **but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

Ephesians 2:8 - 10 “through faith”

Now, with regards to our subject of faith this week, when we look back at the great men and women of faith in our Bibles we find them to be men and women who had a

Slide saving faith – “through faith” they were saved.

I. Slide Saving Defined

 A. Saving

 1. Click Recue from harm, danger or loss

 2. Click Redeeming or Compensating

3. Click Tending or serving to save; rescuing; preserving

 B. Hebrews 11:7

 1. By faith Noah built that ark to the saving of his household.

 C. Ephesians 2:8-19

 1. A saving faith is an active obedient faith.

 a. There is no way to escape this truth when one reads this passage.

II. The Cloud of Witnesses – *A Known Faith*

A. **Israel - Crossing the Red Sea**

 1. Hebrews 11:29

 2. Exodus 14

 a. Have you ever been boxed in! Surrounded on all sides where you

can’t get out. Exodus 14:3 – “the wilderness has closed them in”

 1) Someone who is claustrophobic knows what that feels like.

b. It must have been very frightful to know what lie in front of you

2 Slides was the Red Sea and what lie behind you was the mighty

Egyptian army now in pursuit to recapture you and return you to

Egypt as their slaves.

 1) Verse 10 tells us that Israel was afraid.

 2) Verses 11-12 tells us they really thought they were going to

die very soon trapped in the wilderness.

c. Israel’s faith was weak, but notice what Moses said to them (13-14)

 1) “Stand Still and See the Salvation of the Lord”

 2) “The Lord shall fight for You”

 3) “Hold Your Peace

 4) There are some lessons for us here,

 a) Sit down be quiet and listen

 b) sometimes we are talking and belly aching when we

need to be listening and watching God fight the battle.

d. Verse 15 – the Lord told Moses to tell Israel to “go forward”

e. Verse 21 – the sea is divided and it was time for Israel to

move forward.

 1) Can you imagine a massive wall of water being held back by

a strong wind and being the first one to step out into the dry

seabed?

2) Would you have enough faith to take that first step?

e. Israel’s faith was known that day because a known faith Click will

move forward. Faith moves! It is not Dead!

 1) Verse 22

3. Notice why God told Israel to go forward. – Verse 17-18

 a. Verse 4 tells us this was God’s plan all along, for Egypt to know “I

AM the Lord” - the “I AM” of the burning bush.

4. Israel’s faith, your faith shows the world the True and Living God.

 a. I Timothy 6:12 – “fight the good fight of faith”

 b. Philippians 3:13-14 – Press towards the mark.

 c. Luke 9:62 – Do Not Look Back, move forward.

5. Your faith is known when you move forward.

 a. Your family, friends and neighbors seeing you pressing forward in

your faith every day.

 6. Read Exodus 14:31

 B. **Rahab**

1. Hebrews 11:31

 a. How do you go from being a harlot to an heir of the promise? FAITH

 b. She did not perish with the unbelievers because she BELIEVED!

 1) Click Faith Believes in God

 2) “without faith it is impossible to please Him.” Hebrews 11:6

 c. Click James 2:25-26

 1) Scripture reveals that Rahab’s faith was an active working faith.

 a) That stands in stark contrast to what many of your

friends and family believe, but faith without works is a

dead faith - so says the witness of Rahab the Harlot’s faith.

 d. Click Joshua 2:8-13

 1) Her faith was known because she believed in things she did not see,

she had only heard. (10) (11)

 a) “I know the Lord has given you the land” (vs. 9)

 b) “we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the

Red Sea for you” (vs. 10)

 c) “we have heard…what you did to the two kings of the

Amorites.” (verse 10)

 i. Where does faith come from? Romans 10:17

 d) She had not physically seen any of these things, but

she believed!

 e) What great danger she placed herself and her family in

when she lied to the king’s men and sent them on a

wild goose case

 f) “for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above, and

in earth beneath” (11)

 g) She act on what she absolutely believed to be true.

 2) Something else to consider is how faith is based on fact not fiction.

 B. **The Woman Sinner**

1. Luke 7:36-50

 a. Wow what lessons we can learn from Jesus in this account.

 b. You see in this woman the humility and penitence we talked about in king

David.

 c. You see in her a deep sense of shame and remorse for her transgressions

of the law of God.

 d. We see her deep love for Jesus.

 e. Click A Saving Faith Loves the Lord Very Much

 2. We live in a time when sin is openly practiced and blatant.

 a. It is not hidden it is in your face now you deal with it and go on your way.

 b. There is no shame in sin because it is diluted to a status of an affair, a

woman’s right, a lifestyle, a common everyday use of foul language.

 c. If the Lord wills, people are going to crash and burn in their sins.

 1) Perhaps because they will have been forgiven much they will be

some of our greatest assests for the kingdom because the love the

Lord much.

 d. Lest we forget about Simon in the story, he was the one whom was

forgiven little and therefore loved little.

 1) Perhaps most of us here related more to Simon, we love the Lord

little because, “we’re pretty good” folks.

 2) We all know we have been forgiven of so many things.

 3) A saving faith loves the Lord very much.

 3. Jesus said to her “your faith has saved you. Go in peace” (verse 50)

 a. May we find that kind of peace because we have that kind of faith.

Conclusion: The parting of the Red Sea and the walls of Jericho falling flat were huge miracle!

Slide These witnesses are great examples of…

Faith moving forward

Faith believes in God

Faith loves the Lord Very Much

Invitation: John 3:16-17

Acts 4:12 “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

We began the lesson in Ephesians 2:8 “by grave you have been saved through faith”

James 2:14-17 (verse 17) “thus also” “faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead”

Jesus said in John 8:24 “…if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins”

Jesus said in Luke 13:3 “unless you repent, you will all likewise perish”

In Matthew 10:32-33 “"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”

So many people baulk at baptism.

Jesus said in Mark 16:16 “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

* Baptism is faith in action.
* An obedient action to wash our sins away.
* Baptism doth also now save us – I Peter 3:20-21