LESSON 7

True Saving Faith

Read: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; John 3:14-21, 36; 4:46-53

1. Q. Will all men be saved by Jesus Christ the Mediator?

   A. No, only those who receive Him by a true faith.

2. Q. What is true saving faith?

   A. It is to know and believe in Jesus Christ as our only Saviour from sin, and to trust Him for all things.

3. Q. Which other kinds of faith are there according to the Bible?

   A. Historical faith, miraculous faith, and temporary faith.

4. Q. How do we prove that we have true, saving faith?

   A. By the way in which we seek, receive, and serve Jesus Christ

A Pastoral Message

God sent Jesus to be the Mediator and Saviour from sin. "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. See Ezekiel 33:11. He is not willing that any should perish. See 2 Peter 3:9.

Regardless of how wickedly anyone has lived, or how tragically he has sinned, God in His Word extends the offer of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ.

However, it is a sad fact that many do not care to be delivered from their sin; therefore, they die unsaved. In Matthew 7:13 we read, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat."

We may see our sins as He sees them and that by His grace we may flee to Christ, who even saves the chief of sinners. We must continue to pray until He hears our cry.

I. The Necessity of True Saving Faith

1. To be saved, we must have a true, saving faith in Jesus Christ. We will understand what this means by looking up the following passages in the Bible.
   (a) Hebrews 11:6a - "But without _ _ _ _ _ it is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to please _ _ _ ."
   (b) Acts 22:3-7 - A person may be very sincere in what he believes and not have saving faith. This is evident in the life of Paul. When he was a persecutor, he was sincere in that he bel _ _ _ _ d and at the same time an enemy of the truth as it is in Jesus.
   (c) Acts 16:31a - Whom does Jesus save from sin? Those who b_ _ _ _ _ _ in Him.

II. Historical Faith

1. Q. Which man believed the Scriptures but was not saved? (Acts 26:27, 28)
   A. King _ _ _ _ _ _ _ believed the Scriptures but was not _ _ _ _ _ .
2. Q. Who also believe that there is one God?
   A. The _ _ _ _ _ _ also believe. (James 2:19)
3. Q. What did they confess before Christ? (Luke 4:41)
   A. "Thou art _ _ _ _ _ _ the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ."
4. Q. Is it possible for them to be saved? (2 Peter 2:4)
   A. _ _ , it is _ _ _ .
5. Q. How would you define historical faith? (Matthew 7:26 & John 3:2)
   A. Historical faith is an intellectual acceptance of the truths of the B _ _ _ _ without a saving interest in _ _ _ _ _ .
6. Q. Who can give us saving faith? (Ephesians 2:8b)
   A. Faith is "the _ _ _ _ of God."

III. Miraculous Faith

This is not to believe that the miracles of the Bible are true. Every believer does acknowledge this. But it is a strong confidence that a miracle will happen either through us or to us. A miraculous faith is not sufficient for salvation. Neither is it a mark of true saving faith.

1. Q. Which of Jesus' disciples performed miracles but died unsaved? (Matthew 10:1-8 & Mark 14:18, 21)

   A. _ _ _ _ _ Iscariot

2. Q. When Jesus returns, what will many claim to have done in His name? (Mathew 7:22)

   A. They will claim to have pr _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , to have cast out _ _ _ _ _ _ , and to have done many _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ works in the name of Jesus.

3. Q. What will Jesus say to them? (Matthew 7:23)

   A. "I never _ _ _ _ you: d _ _ _ _ _ from me, ye that work iniquity."

IV. Temporary Faith

1. Q. What kind of faith is described in the parable of the seed that was sown upon the stony places? (Matthew 13:5-6, 20, 21)

   A. T_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

2. Q. How would you define temporary faith? (See Matthew 13:21)

   A. Temporary faith is faith that endures for a _ _ _ _ _ , but by and by such a person is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

3. Jesus said, "He hath not root in himself" (Matthew 13:21).

   Q. What are the roots of true faith according to:

   (a) Psalm 38:18b? A. Confession of _ _ _ and sorry for _ _ _ .

   (b) John 3:7b? A. "Ye must be _ _ _ _ again."

4. In Philemon vs. 24 and in 2 Timothy 4:10a, we read of Demas.

   Q. (a) What was his work? A. Demas was a _ _ _ _ _ _ - labourer of the Apostle Paul.

   Q. (b) What work did he do? A. Demas left P _ _ _ and returned to the world.

   Q. (c) Did he have true faith? A. _____

   Q. (d) What kind of faith did he have? A. T _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ faith.

V. True Saving Faith

1. Q. What is necessary to have eternal life? (John 17:3)

   A. "And this is _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , that they might _ _ _ _ thee the only true _ _ _ , and _ _ _ _ _ Christ, whom thou hast _ _ _ _ ."

2. Q. What did Paul write about his faith in 2 Timothy 1:12?

   A. "I _ _ _ _ whom I have believed, and am _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ that he is able to _ _ _ _ that which I have committed unto him against that day."

3. Q. What does the person believe who has true saving faith? (1 John 1:7c)

   A. He believes that the _ _ _ _ _ of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses from _ _ _ sin.

4. Q. How is true faith received?

   A. True faith is the _ _ _ _ of _ _ _ (Ephesians 2:8c).

   "So faith cometh by _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

5. Q. If we have true, saving faith, how does that reveal itself in our lives?

   A. By the way in which we s_ _ k, receive and s _ _ve the Lord Jesus Christ. (See #4 on page 1)

6. Can true, saving faith ever be lost? (See Philippians 1:6)

   (a) Yes

   (b) No

   Underline the correct answer.

7. Q. What are we urged to do in 2 Corinthians 13:5a?

   A. We are urged to _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ourselves whether we be in the _ _ _ _ _ .

The Apostolic Creed

The Apostolic or Apostle's Creed owes its name to the fact that it summarizes the essential content of the apostolic faith; hence it has been rightly called 'the apostolic confession of faith'.
In its simplest form the Apostles Creed dates from the second century.

I. I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
II. And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord;
III. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
IV. Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell;
V. The third day he rose again from the dead;
VI. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
VII. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead;
VIII. I believe in the Holy Ghost;
IX. I believe an holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
X. The forgiveness of sins;
XI. The resurrection of the body;
XII. And the life everlasting. Amen.

Evaluator: _____