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INDEPENDENT

MISSIONARY

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THE VALUE OF FAITH

C. D. COLE

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1.

Faith is a word greatly abused. There are many imitations of what the Bible calls faith. Bible faith is based upon the infallible word of God. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. You cannot have faith respecting anything that God has not spoken about. Faith is taking God at his word and acting upon what he says. Saving faith is taking God at His word about what he has said about His Son, and acting upon it. He says there is eternal life in His Son; and, if I believe His word, I will trust His Son. And I won't do anything else for salvation.

Definition of faith:

Faith is the confidence of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen. It is the inward confidence that what God has promised, He will perform. Faith holds the hope waits. God has spoken with respect of what is a matter of hope, and about things that cannot be discovered by sight or reason. God says there is

deliverance from wrath to come through the work of His Son. That is a matter of hope because it is in the future. Now faith is confidence that keeps me hoping. God speaks about things not seen. Faith is the conviction that what God says is so, even though it is beyond scientific investigation or personal sight.

VALUE OF FAITH

1. Faith is valuable because of the knowledge we have by it. Most knowledge we have is faith knowledge. The only way we can know how the world was created is by faith. It is one of the unseen things. Something you cannot discover by reason. Nobody witnessed it. Reason did not discover it. No secular or profane historian qualified to tell how it was done. God's word says He created it by commanding it to be. He spoke it into existence without preexisting material. Evolution is a human hypothesis--unproven and unprovable. Here is a field where nothing but faith can operate. If God had not spoken on the subject of creation, no man could know how it was done.

The knowledge that I am saved is faith knowledge. I cannot know it by feelings, by reason, nor by sight. I know I am saved by what God says. He says the believer has everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation. The blood makes me safe; the word makes me sure. (See Exodus 12--The Passover.) If I am saved by faith, then I can know I am saved only by faith.

2. Faith is valuable because it pleases God. Without faith, it is impossible to please Him. By faith,



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the elders obtained a good report; that is, God testified that they pleased Him.

3. Faith is valuable because it enables men to do things, suffer things, and get things, that could not otherwise be done, or suffered, or secured. All works pleasing to God are works of faith. Illustrations:

A. Abel. Faith enabled Abel to offer a better sacrifice than Cain. It wasn't their financial condition, their reason, or their sight. Both boys had a revelation from God about what kind of sacrifice to bring that would be acceptable to him. This was a bloody sacrifice, a sacrifice that would typify the death of His Son. Both boys wanted acceptance with God. Abel took God at His word and brought the kind he said to bring. Cain rejected God's word and brought another kind of sacrifice. Abel believed nothing would do but bloody sacrifice, Cain thought otherwise. He resorted to reason, or sight, or convenience; and, brought what God did not say would satisfy Him. Cain was satisfied with his fruit, but God wasn't. Somebody has said that if Cain had offered his fruit in faith he would have been accepted. But, if he had offered in faith, he would have offered blood.

In Luke 18, we have the parable of a good man being lost and a bad man being saved.

B. Noah. Faith enabled Noah to go forward in building the ark. God spoke about a coming flood. This was something that had never been seen: not forecasted by the weather man: nothing in science to indicate such a thing: nothing to go by but God's word.

By faith, he was moved with fear. He had confidence that God would send the flood. He was filled with fear and wanted to escape it.

By faith, he went about building the ark. Faith tested by time and taunt of his friends. God waited a long time to send the flood, but Noah's faith held. In the face of every trial, he believed flood would come and the only way of escape would be in the ark he was building.

By faith, he condemned the world. While building the ark, he preached; and, in preaching, he condemned the world for not believing God.

By faith, he became heir of righteousness by faith. Noah was saved from flood by faith. He was not righteous by right living, but by faith--a living, operating faith. He was a sinner; but, he found grace in the eyes of the Lord. This means he was a sinner.

Conclusion: Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. God has magnified His Word above all His name. "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness and for thy truth; for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." Psalm 138:2. This means that God has placed great emphasis upon His Word. If you can't believe God and his message of salvation, which comes to us in Jesus Christ, you cannot be saved. Fail to believe the message and you call God a liar. "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself; he that believeth not God hath made him a liar, because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son." I John 5:10. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and

thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31. We are saved by grace through faith. God will save all those that will believe on His Son.

"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. (Conclusion by Al Gormley.)

Building a Pastor

We have heard of building a church but what about building a pastor? It is true. You can build a pastor, or you can tear him down. "A great pastor will build his church, and a great church will build her pastor. A church is as responsible for what she does to her pastor as is the pastor for what he does for the church. How can we, as members of this church help make our pastor's ministry more effective.

1. *Build his spiritual power by praying for him.* When you pray for your pastor, you pray for your church, your community, your family.
2. *Build his reputation by speaking well of him.* He will have weak and strong points. His influence will depend on which of them you stress.
3. *Build his leadership by co-operating with him.* For every great leader there must be some great followers. Read Hebrews 13:7,17.
4. *Build his pulpit power by hearing him.* Full pews challenge a man to prepare and deliver great sermons. Empty pews discourage him.
5. *But the greatest thing you can do for your pastor is to follow the Christ he preaches and obey God's Word.*

--copied

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A FATAL IGNORANCE

C. D. COLE

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

We cannot be too careful to distinguish between men as a physical and also as a moral being. As a physical being he is related to nature and belongs to the animal creation. As a moral being he has to have dealings with God to whom he must give account. As a physical being he is subject to the laws of nature like other animals and to violate them will bring physical harm. As a moral being he is under the moral law of God which requires him to recognize and honour the true and living God. As a physical being he has a human spirit by which he holds intercourse with his fellowman; as a moral being he must have the Spirit of God in order to know the things of God. "For what man knoweth the things of man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God" (1 Cor. 2:11).

Ignorance is a subject which may be studied in two realms: the physical or natural, and the moral or spiritual. We learn in the natural realm by the study of nature or God's work. We learn in the moral realm by the study of God's word. There are a great many subjects in both realms that may be studied to profit. Ignorance in the natural realm may lead to temporary inconvenience and even hardship and danger. Many do not know how to take care of their bodies - ignorant of the laws of hygiene and diet. Suppose we had to do without all knowledge that men have acquired in the study of nature. It would mean the loss of thousands of inventions such as electric power and light, modern means of travel, modern ways of treating diseases and many other temporary blessings. In this crowded world if we had to go back to primitive ways of living we would all be seeking a better place to live.

Now a person may know much in one of these realms and little or nothing in the other realm. Or a man may know much in both realms. There is so much to know in the natural realm that men have realized it is impossible for any one man to know it all and so we have specialists in the various fields of human endeavour. One man will know medicine to whom other

will go for help. Another man will know law to whom others will go for advice. Some will know surgery and to them people go for operations. Some will know the physical sciences like astronomy, geology, botany, etc. Knowledge of all these things has its advantage in this life but

ignorance of them is not fatal to our eternal welfare.

THE MORAL REALM

There is a realm where ignorance is fatal. This is the moral realm and has to do with knowledge of God and divine things. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" John 17:3. As moral beings we have to be born again - born of the Spirit. In the moral realm every one of us was one time in ignorance. A veritable Solomon in the realm of nature may be an ignoramus in relation to divine things. Ignorance in the moral realm can only be dispelled by the word of God in the hands of the Holy Spirit. Wherever the Bible has not gone, men are fatally ignorant of God and His salvation; and wherever the Bible has gone and the Holy Spirit has not been the teacher the man is still blind to the things of God. We must have human teachers to understand human things; we must have a Divine teacher to understand divine things. Birth into the natural or physical realm does not give capacity of knowing spiritual or divine things.

Scriptures that support what we have been saying:

"Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (Eph. 4:18).

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" 1 Cor. 2:14.

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (2 Cor. 4:4).

"It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me" (John 6:45).

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." "They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them" (1 John 4: 4, 5).

Examples:

1. The Greeks. 1 Corinthians 1:21.
2. The woman of Sychar. John 4.
3. The Jews. Romans 10.
4. Laodicea. Revelation 3:17.

WE GET LETTERS
OF ENCOURAGEMENT!

"Yes, please continue sending THE PIONEER BAPTIST. I always enjoy it very much."
--Burton, MI

"I have been so blessed by C. D. Cole's works, namely....If there have been any more published besides these, I would like very much to acquire them. Keep up the good work!"

--Odenton, MD

"I want to continue receiving THE PIONEER BAPTIST. I hold a special place in my memories and its articles and missionary reports are a blessing."

--Red Wing, MN

SAVED BY GRACE

Some day the silver cord will break,
And I no more as now shall sing;
But O, the joy when I shall wake
Within the palace of the King!

Some day my earthly house will fall,
I cannot tell how soon 'twill be,
But this I know--my All in All
Has now a place in Heav'n for me.

Some day, when fades the golden sun
Beneath the rosy-tinted west,
My blessed Lord will say, "Well done!"
'And I shall enter into rest.

Some day: till then I'll watch and wait,
My lamp all trimmed and burning bright,
That when my Saviour opes the gate,
My soul to Him may take its flight.

And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story--Saved by grace;
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story--Saved by grace.

--Fanny J. Crosby

"GO YE into all the
WORLD
and preach the gospel"