

“The Righteousness of God Is Revealed From Faith To Faith”

(Compiled from Bible Matters Sources by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. What is faith? - Heb. 11:1
 - 1. Confidence, trust, conviction in object of faith - 2Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:2-3
- B. Many people have strong confidence in God, yet believe and live differently from others who profess faith
 - 1. One's faith is subjective
- C. But faith has always involved both the subjective and the objective
 - 1. The New Testament speaks of "the" faith and "our" faith; two closely related, yet very distinct, matters

I. THE FAITH

- A. The New Testament frequently speaks of the faith, using the definitive article
 - 1. Acts 6:7, 13:8, 14:22; Rom. 14:1; 1Cor. 16:13
 - 2. Et al - 2Cor. 13:5; Gal. 1:23; Eph. 4:13; Phil. 1:25, 27; Col. 1:23, 2:7; 1Tim. 1:2, 3:9, 3:13, 4:1, 4:6, 5:8, 6:10, 6:12, 6:21; 2Tim. 3:8, 4:7; Titus 1:13, 3:15; James 2:1
 - 3. Jude 1:3
- B. These passages are clearly not talking about one's personal conviction
 - 1. "The Faith" is distinct and self-existing apart from the individual.
 - 2. There exists a body of revealed truth on any given Bible matter. That body of truth is called the faith (Jude 3). There is a means whereby one apprehends that body of truth. That means is described as one's faith. One's faith, based upon the faith, can be strong or weak, depending on his rate of growth and willingness to study. However, the faith is not modified by the strength or weakness of one's own faith; it remains constant. Therefore, one's faith must come to measure up to the faith.
- C. What is "the faith"?
 - 1. "The faith" involves Jesus, the Gospel, and the Kingdom
 - 2. Acts 2:22-36 - Jesus' life, death, resurrection, Lordship and Kingdom
 - 3. 1Cor. 15:1-4 - Jesus' death, burial, resurrection
 - 4. 2John 1:7-11 - Jesus as the Incarnate Christ, the Son of God
 - 5. The body of instructions, individual and collective for Christians
- D. "The faith is the objective standard that must be accepted

II. OUR FAITH

- A. The New Testament also speaks of "our" faith, personal confidence, conviction and belief
 - 1. Encouragement from shared faith - Rom. 1:12
 - 2. Faith is the means of life and righteousness - Gal. 3:11
 - 3. Growth in faith - Rom. 4:20
 - 4. Live life by faith - Gal. 2:20
- B. This faith is our personal confidence, trust, conviction
 - 1. Our faith is placed in what we choose - 2Cor. 5:7
 - 2. Our faith can be strong or weak - 1Cor. 8

3. Strengthened or weakened - Rom. 4:19-20
 4. Comes from hearing the message of God - Rom. 10:17
 5. Acting without faith is sin - Rom. 14:23
 6. Our faith is to work and do so in love - Gal. 5:6
- C. Our faith, even though subjective, is necessary to please God - Heb. 11:6

III. THE FAITH AND OUR FAITH

- A. The faith is the objective standards to be accepted by all those who would be Christians; our faith is our personal trust, confidence & conviction in the faith
1. Our faith must be in the faith
 2. Christians must accept and promote the faith - Phil. 1:27
 3. We can only accept "the faith" through our own personal faith
 4. An indicator of the strength of our faith is how well we understand and embrace the faith and the Father, Son and Holy Spirit who are the source of the faith - 1Cor. 2:5
- B. Faith that is not according to "the faith" is not accepted
1. We cannot have faith in God that is not according to "the faith"
 2. Many have departed from the faith while retaining a faith
 - a. 1Tim. 4:1, 6:20-21
- C. Our faith must be genuine and in deed
1. Faith is made evident by works - James 2:14-26
 2. Jesus condemns those believe in Him and do not do God's will
 - a. Matt. 7:21-23
 3. Without love, faith can do nothing - 1Cor. 13:2
- D. The faith and our faith are distinct and interconnected
1. "The faith" represents objective principles consistent throughout time
 2. Ideally, our faith should perfectly reflect the faith
 3. However, we are all growing in faith, and while we may have a good grasp of the basics of the faith, there is always room to continue to grow
 - a. Phil. 1:25; 2Peter 3:18
 4. Those who truly walk by faith will accept and abide in the faith.