



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Volume 45

August 14, 2018

Number 32

Forest Hill

Church of Christ

3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd
Memphis, TN 38125

Office: 901-751-2444
Info Line: 901-531-8849

www.foresthillcofc.org
office@foresthillcofc.org

Elders:

Danny Braddock Jr.
Anthony D. Callahan
Warren Davenport
Gregory D. Mangrum
Harold D. Mangrum
Keith B. McAlister
Eddie F. Ray III

Ministers:

Barry M. Grider,
Pulpit Evangelist
Matthew Jones,
Personal Evangelist

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.... 10:30 A.M.
Afternoon Worship.....1:30 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

HOME OF THE
MEMPHIS SCHOOL
OF PREACHING
www.msop.org

Missions Supported:

Far East/World Evangelism
Good News Today
Gospel Broadcasting Network
House to House, Heart to Heart
Kakinada, India
Murmansk, Russia
Panama Mission
Four Seas Bible College
Truth for the World

Free Bible Correspondence Course
Email: fhbiblecourse@gmail.com

Grace And Faith

Winfred Clark

To those who know the Bible, the two words, *Grace and Faith*, will not be strangers. They are surely known by those who read the book of God. In fact, these are two of the cardinal doctrines of the Word of God. These are familiar words to those who have followed the history of restoration preaching. These themes have been repeated over and over by men who helped to carry the gospel across this land and into others. But one could not be true to the book and not emphasize that which demands so much of our attention.

It is said, but there has been much misrepresentation of the truth concerning grace and faith. This has been the case, not only in the world, but also in the church. These have not escaped the devices of Satan to deceive the hearts of men. There has been an abundance of error propagated concerning these vital topics. Many people have gone, and are going, into eternity without a proper understanding and appreciation for that which God intended by his grace. Many have not been recipients of that grace because of a failure to properly understand the demands of faith.

We propose to look at these words in the following fashion. We will look at the **importance of each one** of these. We will then look at the **fact that they are not mutually exclusive**. We will see how they are **related to each other**. We will also see how **they are related to other matters of equal importance**. This will not exhaust the study of such but perhaps it will enrich our lives as we stop and meditate on these matters.

The Nature of Grace And Faith

How does the Bible address the subject of grace and faith? How are these described? How should they be viewed by us today?

We will begin with the **nature of grace**. What do we mean by grace? What does the Bible mean? Allow us to go back to the first usage of the word in the King James Version. This will be found in the book of Genesis. Notice, "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Gen. 6:8). Now we find ourselves at a place where a thing is first mentioned. What did it mean at that time? If you will look at your American Standard Version, you will see it using the word "favor." We can better understand this when we look at what this grace did for Noah. Did not God give Noah some instructions as to the building of the ark? He did just that (Gen 6:14). But in the giving of those instructions you will find God favoring Noah. He is helping to provide a way of escape from the flood. Without these instructions you would find no difference in the fate of Noah and the others with whom he lived. We need to be careful to note that this is a description of the grace of God. Remember that this is grace in the eyes of God extended to sinful man. This has to do with God's favor toward man. We have often heard grace described as "unmerited favor." We can be sure that any favor God will show to man is "unmerited." We know that such would be the case in our own day. But, one of the things we want to underscore is the fact that grace has to do with the favor of God. We know that such grows out of His love and kindness toward man. This is spelled out by Paul when he

(continued page 2)

says,

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together in Christ (by grace ye are saved) (Eph. 2:4-5).

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together in Christ (by grace ye are saved) (Eph. 2:4-5).

Here is one who is well aware of the source of grace. He knows that such is of God and that it is from his love, kindness, mercy, that we can enjoy His grace. Again and again we are reminded of grace, but we are also reminded that such is “of God” (Acts 11:23; 13:43; 14:26). These are but a few of the many instances where we are reminded of this great fact.

Grace is said to also be “of Christ.” Peter refers to such in Jerusalem when he reminds all those gathered,

We believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we shall be saved... (Acts 15:11).

Remember also that the Holy Spirit is said to be the “Spirit of grace” (Heb. 10:29). So all the divine persons are involved in the matter of grace.

What is the nature of faith? What do we mean by the term? W.E. Vine says: “primarily, firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing.” It also has to do with the matter of trust (Rom. 3:25). Thayer said: “Conviction of the truth of anything, belief.” So when we speak of one’s faith, we speak of what one’s believing or one’s convictions about spiritual matters. Many times the words faith and belief are used synonymously. Take the case of the Lord’s dealing with Thomas. Listen to what He said to Thomas when he was doubtful.

Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing (John 20:27).

Jesus surely had the same thing in mind when He refers to faith and belief in the same breath. This is also seen in the Hebrew letter where the writer says,

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God just believe that he is... (Heb. 11:6).

So the one who did not believe would not have faith, but the one who did believe could come to God because he possessed the necessary faith.

There are numerous illustrations one can find in his Bible that will help him to see just what faith involves. Take for example, the passage that is so very familiar to those who read the Roman letter.

... faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Rom. 10:17).

So whatever faith is found to be; we know that such is of the heart and mind. But this should not surprise us for Paul said,

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness... (Rom. 10:10).

So he clearly affirms that such is of the heart. If we take these two passages together we would conclude that one accepts from the heart the evidence presented to him by the hearing of the Word of God and these become the basis of his conviction. This will enable one to form convictions about matters such as God and His promises. This will in turn produce in his heart the kind of trust and reliance demanded.

We can see something of the nature of faith by John’s writing where he says,

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name (John 20:30-31).

Again, we will find evidence presented. This evidence is compelling evidence that is of a supernatural nature. It is the kind of evidence that one would be forced to accept as being valid and reliable. This would produce in the heart of such a person that thing which is called “belief.” That is another way of saying that this would produce faith. This will tell us something of the nature of faith.

As we look at the matter of faith, we see this to be a responsibility on the part of man. This is the way Paul saw it. He said, “With the heart MAN (caps mine) believeth” (Rom. 10:10). This is not something that God does for him. It is man who does the believing (John 3:16; 8:24).

It Is Not Grace Alone, Or Faith Alone

Yes, there are cases where one may be told that one is saved by grace alone. I, along with others, have heard men say, “It is grace plus nothing, minus nothing.” This would mean that one’s salvation would all be on the part of God. But this is a part of the consequence of the old Calvinistic doctrine. One can return to the religious discussion of the past and he will find such debates as the Cayce-Srygley discussion. One of the propositions in that discussion was: God gives eternal life to an alien sinner without condition upon his part. This would mean that the sinner’s salvation is all of grace. But if salvation is all on the part of grace without any condition, then if one were not saved it would be because grace did not save. But if it is without a condition on the part of man, then if one were not saved, it would be because God did not, by His grace, save him. But if God saved one from sin by grace alone without condition, would He not be obligated to save everyone that way? If He did not, would he not be a respecter of persons? But did not Peter say that God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34)? So, we can know

(continued page 4)

PRESIDE: Evan Manning
ASSIST: Michael Brown
 Raymond Pipkin
 Billy Rodgers

Keith McAlister
 Ty Phillips
 John Pope
 Kirk Teachout

A.M. OPENING: Lyle Summitt
A.M. CLOSING: Jerry Manning
P.M. OPENING: Dennis Woods
P.M. CLOSING: Paul Davenport

If you are unable to lead prayer or serve at the Lord's table, please contact Cedric Huff or Paul Connell.

RECORD, WEEK of August 12, 2018

BIBLE STUDY: 230
 A.M. WORSHIP: 305
 P.M. WORSHIP: 190
 CONTRIBUTION: \$18,385.00

HOMEBOUND

Virginia Ditto
 Hazel Eskew
 Doris Jean Cole
 Anita Hopper

Albert & Ruth House
 Betty Jones
 Jerry & Betty Robbins
 Velton & Dorothy Trimm

OUR SICK

Ill at home: Phil Houston, Walt Safronoff, and Wayne Sanders.

Patsy DeShields, Germantown Methodist, Room 449 West, (no visitors please.)

Phil Houston, will have surgery Thursday, August 16 at Germantown Methodist.

Betty Jones, broken hip, Germantown Methodist, Room 415 West.

Martha McKelvey, Memphis Jewish Home.

New Classes to Begin

Sunday, August 12:

Greg Mangrum will begin a study of *I & II Timothy* and *Titus* in the auditorium.

Keith Mosher will continue his study of *Luke* in the Chapel Hall.

Wednesday, August 15:

Matthew Jones will continue his study *Taking Sin Seriously* in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday, August 29:

Barry Grider will begin a study of *The Divided Kingdom* in the auditorium.

During the next two Wednesday evenings, August 15 and August 22, in the auditorium, Tom Wacaster will speak on the American Restoration Movement.

HEARTS AND HANDS

Team "B" (WARREN DAVENPORT) will receive assignment cards August 19.

TEAM "D" (RANDY ELLIOTT) will meet Friday, August 24 at 6:30 at the home of Carolyn Hayes for a covered dish dinner. Please see Carolyn or Mary Elliott for a map.

TEAM "H" (KALON BROWN) will meet Saturday, August 25 at 3 p.m. the home of Cedric and Diane Huff for a cookout. Please see Diane Huff or Melissa Brown for what to bring.

EVENTS

LADIES AND MEN'S CLASSES will resume September 11.

YOUNG ADULT DEVO Friday, August 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Robert and Julie Berch.

REDBIRDS GAME/FIREWORKS Saturday, August 18 at 6:35 p.m. Tickets are 16\$ which includes hot dog, drink and hat. Please sign up on bulletin board by Wednesday, August 15 if you plan to attend. See Danny Braddock with questions.

SALT (for ladies) will meet Tuesday, August 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

BABY SHOWER honoring Lauren Teachout on Sunday, August 26 after morning service in the fellowship hall. She is having a boy. She is registered at Target and babylist.com.

KIRBY PINES Retirement Community worship service each fourth Sunday 8:00-8:45 a.m., conducted by Forest Hill. Our next service will be Sunday, August 26.

OUR SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO Mike Sanders in the passing of his brother in law, Tom MacMillan.

HELP NEEDED in the education department, specifically preschool. If you are interested, please see Debbie Rogers or Jason White.

Forest Hill Family,
 Thank you for the calls and cards while my wife was recovering from hip surgery.

Sincerely, Don Grisham

Last week's solution:

And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. I Samuel 3:8-9

CORNERSTONE

Scryptogram: Each letter in the passage is replaced with another.

TZNUEV JZ, M BMK, NHK SHMR JQ VZNUD

DUQ JZ, NHK SHMR JQ DVMGBVDT

NHK TZZ AC DVZUZ IZ NHQ RAESZK RNQ AH JZ, NHK

XZNK JZ AH DVZ RNQ ZPZUXNTDAH.

P=V Solution next week. X=L

beyond the shadow of a doubt that it is not grace alone.

We also know that it is not faith alone. Yes, we are well aware of the fact that many believe and teach that, "man is saved by faith alone is a most wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort." We also know that such may be wholesome to some, but it is contrary to the will of God. Take a moment to look at what James had to say about the matter. He said,

Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only (James 2:24).

Could we find a passage that would state this more clearly? If this does not say one is not saved or justified by faith only; how would you have to say it for it to mean one is not saved by faith only? This is as clear as it can be. There are other passages that will prove beyond a doubt that one is not saved by faith alone. Were there not a **number of the rulers who believed on the Lord but would not confess Him (John 12:42-43)? John said they believed; but that is all they did. Would they be saved? If one is saved by faith alone, these would surely be saved.**

Men need to take into account the fact that if one is saved by faith alone; he is saved by a dead faith. This is the way James would describe such a faith. You will find him describing such a faith at least three times in a very short span. Notice,

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone (James 2:17).

He also later asked a question,

But wilt thou know O vain man, that faith without works is dead (James 2:20).

Again, He said,

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also (James 2:26).

Take a moment to reflect on this matter and see what you will have. He speaks of faith without works as faith alone. But of that faith he will say that it is a dead faith. Now is man saved by a dead faith? Absolutely not, and you have James, the half brother of our Lord, as a witness to that effect. One is not saved by faith alone.

From the above we can conclude that grace alone does not save, and neither does faith alone save.

(continued next week)

The Forest Hill News
Forest Hill Church of Christ
3950 Forest Hill-Irene Road
Memphis, TN 38125

Address Service Requested