

Lesson # 1 -- The Biblical Basis and Importance of Faith, Love and Hope.

Introduction

- A. It is comforting to know that the love of God is an action. He has come to us, in the Person of His Son Jesus Christ, and has made a provision for us in the Crucifixion and Resurrection, whereby we may be reconciled to Himself and live a meaningful daily life to His glory.
- B. The knowledge of what God has done for us, however, is not enough. It is necessary for us to respond to God, by His grace, first in the area of salvation and then continually as we live our daily lives.

But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name. John 1:12

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk (live) in Him. Col. 2:6

I. The Biblical Basis for Faith, Love and Hope.

A. Creation.

1. Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7-25.

- a. God made us persons, with self-consciousness and self-determination.
- b. God made us intelligent and rational persons.
- c. God made us spiritual and moral persons.

2. Isaiah 43:1-7,21.

- a. God made us for Himself -- to find in Him our fellowship and fulfillment.
- b. God made us to glorify Himself -- to find in Him the purpose and meaning of life.

3. Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10.

- a. God made us with the ability to live righteous and holy lives.
- b. God made us with the ability to know Him, one another and His world.

Summary:

- a. We have the ability, through our creation, to respond to God and one another in faith, love and hope. God addresses us as persons.
- b. We have the ability, through our creation, to perform the highest deeds possible to man. We can respond to God in the worship, prayer, obedience and service of faith, love and hope. God holds us responsible to respond to Him.
- c. We also have the ability, through our creation, to respond incorrectly (sinfully) to God, His world and to one another. This sinful alternative we have chosen and as a consequence the non-Christian is characterized by alienation from God, other people and himself. Sin and its effects has permeated into all facets of man's being and functions. Death, with its total separation from God, is the final effect of choosing to reject God. (Romans 1:18-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:12-21; 6:23; Ephesians 2:11,12; Colossians 1:21) God holds us responsible for our incorrect response and defection from Himself.

B. Salvation.

1. In salvation our created ability to respond to God and one another has been reborn. Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10
2. The Bible is very explicit in its teaching that the believer has the rights, privileges and ability to exercise faith, love and hope.
  - a. Faith -- Ephesians 2:8,9 --
  - b. Love -- Romans 5:5 --
  - c. Hope -- I Peter 1:3 --
3. The Scripture also encourages the believer in that we are taught that we have abilities which presuppose the exercise of faith, love and hope.
  - a. Romans 15:14 -- the believer has the ability to admonish other Christians.
  - b. I Cor. 10:13 -- the believer has the ability to withstand temptation.
  - c. II Cor. 1:3,4 -- the believer has the ability to comfort those in trouble.

- d. II Cor. 3:6 -- the believer has the ability to use the Bible to bring life to people.
- e. Ephesians 3:17,18,19 -- the believer has the ability to comprehend God's love.
- f. Ephesians 6:11 -- the believer has the ability to resist the Devil.
- g. Ephesians 6:16 -- the believer has the ability to avoid and to put out all the attack of the Devil.

II. The Biblical Importance of Faith, Love and Hope. (Sample only)

- A. The basic exhortations of the Bible revolve around this response of faith, love and hope.
  - 1. Faith -- Hebrews 11:6 --
  - 2. Love -- Matthew 22:37-40 --
  - 3. Hope -- Romans 15:13 --
- B. The basic examples of the Bible revolve around this response of faith, love and hope.
  - 1. I Cor. 13:13 --
  - 2. I Thessalonians 1:3 --