

22 July 2018

Faith – Pt 2 Faith that is vain

This is our second study on the topic of faith. In our first teaching we established that faith is the substance of the things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, it is believing, and being fully persuaded that what is promised can be performed. In this our second study we establish – faith that is vain is founded on (i) false facts, (ii) false gods, and (iii) uncertain riches.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

Faith that is vain is founded on –

i) false facts

a) Christ be not risen

“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins” (1Cor.15: 17).

b) science so falsely called

“O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called” (1Tim.6: 20).

ii) false gods

“And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked” (1Kg.18: 26 & 27).

iii) uncertain riches

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy” (1Tim.6: 17).

Additional supporting information

The meaning of the word “vain” is evident in Ps.127: 1 – “Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

God Almighty brought the fledgling nation of Israel out of bondage in Egypt by His powerful hand (Ex/32: 11), He caused the first born of Egypt to be killed, their armies that chased after Israel were killed when the red sea came back over them, yet when Moses was gone up Mt Horeb the people rebelled and made a golden calf.

Question to think about.

Why would a people that had seen so much evidence of God Almighty turn away from Him to make a golden calf and worship it as their god, when clearly the calf was a dumb idol?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

The same reason the nation of Israel did not believe that the Lord Jesus was their prophesied Messiah, they did not believe He had cleansed the lepers, or healed the sick, nor made the blind to see, because they chose to place their trust, their faith in false facts, false gods, and uncertain riches. The same reason those who believe in false gods (Roman Catholic, a Muslim, a Mormon or a lost) reject the Lord Jesus Christ – because they have chosen to place their trust, their faith in things that are false. Any faith that is founded on error, is of no value, it is vain, and therefore to those who have that faith they will be like the prophets of Baal, who hoped that their god would set fire on the altar, but He could not, because Baal is NO god, he has no strength, he could not hear his prophets, and their faith in his ability to listen and do was vain.

Let us show compassion to those who place their faith in vain things and NOT in the God of Holy Scripture – the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!