

29 July 2018

Faith – Pt 3 The faith of Christ

This is our third study on the topic of faith. In our previous teaching we established that faith that is vain is founded on (i) false facts, (ii) false gods, and (iii) uncertain riches. In this our third study we establish – (1) Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness, (2) the Lord Jesus had perfect faith, and (3) when a lost person believes the gospel of Christ they are justified before God by the faith of Christ, and imputed with His righteousness.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Abraham believed God and his faith was counted unto him for righteousness.

“For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Rom.4: 3).

See also Gen.15: 6, Gal.3: 6 and Jam.2: 23.

2. The Lord Jesus Christ had perfect faith

“And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because [he eateth] not of faith: for whatsoever [is] not of faith is sin” (Rom.14: 23), c.f. – Heb,4: 15 “For we have not an high priest which can not be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin.”

3. When the lost believe the gospel of Christ they are justified by the faith of Christ and imputed with His righteousness.

“Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference” (Rom.3: 22), c.f. – Rom.4: 22 “And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed”.

See also Gal.2: 16 & 20.

It takes faith in Christ, belief in the gospel of the grace of God (1Cor.15: 1-4) to save a man, but the faith of Christ justifies him before God.

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

“Thinkest thou that I can not now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matt.26: 53). With such an example of faith it should not surprise us that the Lord Jesus would say to his disciples – “If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done” (Matt.21: 21).

Question to think about.

What is the difference between the faith of Abraham and that which a believer has today?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

It was on the basis of Abraham’s faith that he received the righteousness of God, and it was only when his faith was proved, that he was justified before God (Jam.2: 21).

Whereas from the moment a lost person believes in their heart the gospel of Christ crucified, and calls on the name of the Lord (Rom.10: 10 & 13) they are saved, they are justified by the faith of Christ, and His righteousness is imputed unto them. Wow!

And at the moment of believing in their heart unto righteousness they are sealed with the Holy Spirit – “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise” (Eph 1:13),

Therefore, once we have believed the gospel, once we are in the body of Christ our future assurance of salvation is NOT dependant on our faith, but “the faith of the Son of God” (Gal.2: 20) – His perfect faith. Amen!