

## THROUGH FAITH

**Sunday Morning: July 22, 2001**

**Text: Ephesians 2:8** "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God:*"

We have been studying in the book of Hebrews and in our study of the third chapter we find the children of Israel traveling from Egypt to the land flowing with milk and honey, the promise land. Last Sunday we mentioned the fact that when they crossed the Red Sea they begin with faith. But something happened from the Red Sea until they got to the city of Jericho. In Hebrews chapter 11 there is no mention of any acts of faith between the Red Sea until the day the city of Jericho fell. That is simply telling us that the adults, primarily, because they were the ones accountable, made shipwreck of the faith. They departed from the living God. Take note in Hebrews 3:12 "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." The word unbelief is the Greek word *no faith*. This week I have been burdened about the significance of faith. The children of Israel made shipwreck of the faith, they departed from the faith. Did they lose their salvation? No they did not lose their salvation. Departing from the faith does effect some things. We need to reflect on that a bit. In Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God:*" If we are saved through faith and we can make shipwreck of the faith it simply means we can lose our salvation. That is not true, we do not lose our salvation. I want to reflect on that a little bit.

### LACKING FAITH

**1 Thessalonians 3:10** "Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is **lacking in your faith?**"

I put this verse in the message this morning to stimulate our thinking. If we are saved by faith maybe there is something lacking in your faith and it did not take, or you were not saved.

### FEAR GOES WITH LITTLE FAITH

**Matthew 8:26** "And he saith unto them, **Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? . . .**"

Here the apostles are in the sea of Galilee and they are being tossed about. They could not calm the sea, and he said "O ye of little faith." They did not have enough faith.

### DOUBT GOES WITH LITTLE FAITH

**Matthew 14:31** ". . . O thou of **little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?**"

The same thing in this verse. "O thou of little faith." This had to do with Peter walking on the water for a little way, and the Lord rebuked him with the statement of "O thou of little faith."

An observation in these two verses is that if you are fearful, it will effect your faith. If you doubt, it also is a sign of little faith. Have you ever doubted your salvation?

### HOW MUCH FAITH?

**Luke 17:5-6** "And the apostles said unto the Lord, **Increase our faith.** 6. And the Lord said, If ye had **faith as a grain of mustard seed**, ye might **say** unto this **sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root**, and be thou planted in the sea; and **it should obey you.**"

How many of you have mustard seed faith? How many of you could say to a sycamine tree be cast in the sea. I know I can't. Does that mean I do not have enough faith to be saved if salvation is by faith? No. Salvation is not on the basis of faith.

We are told in the Word to examine ourselves whether we be in the faith. Tossing sycamine trees is not a proof of whether we are in the faith or not. If it were, none of us would be in the faith.

## PUT AWAY FAITH

**1 Timothy 1:19** "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having **put away** concerning **faith** have made shipwreck:"

The word *hold* could be translated *esteem* or *regard*. Paul is saying there are some that do not regard *faith* or a *good conscience* enough that they are willing to *put away* faith. When you make shipwreck, you sink to the bottom of the sea. When we put away the faith we make shipwreck of not only faith but a good conscience as well.

## DEPART FROM THE FAITH

**1 Timothy 4:1** "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times **some shall depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"

*Departing from the faith* is listening to someone and not taking heed to the Word of God. Listening to *seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons* will cause us to depart from pleasing God.

## WAS THE JAILOR SAVED BY FAITH?

**Acts 16:31** "And they said, **Believe** [aorist tense] on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be **saved**, and thy house."

Here we have the Philippian jailor. The Philippian Jailor knew that if the prison doors were open that the prisoners would escape. There were not luxury apartments in a Roman prison and the food and treatment was not the best. The jailor was awakened by the earth quake and found the doors open, he was afraid he would suffer a Roman crucifixion because he lost his prisoners.

He was not ready to die, so he asked Paul and Silas what he must do to be saved? Paul said, in verse 31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Did Paul use the word *faith* in this verse? No. He used the verb believe. Faith is not a verb. People try to use the word *faith* as a verb. It is a noun. It is a person, place or thing. Paul did not use the word faith, but used the verb *believe*. Can you make shipwreck of the verb *believe*? No. Can you depart from the verb *believe*? No. You either believe or you don't. It is like pulling the trigger of a gun. You pull the trigger of a gun, can you un-pull the trigger? No. When you believe on the Lord Jesus as your personal savior you can not reverse that event. When you know you are a sinner and you received the Lord Jesus as your personal savior, when you accept His finished work on the cross for yourselves, you are in the family. There is no fear of shipwreck. There is no fear of departing from the faith when comes to salvation. There is no fear of loosing your salvation. Trying to apply faith to salvation creates confusion. The Lord is not the author of confusion, neither did he write a book to create confusion.

## YOU CAN'T PUT AWAY OR DEPART FROM "BELIEVE".

I read again Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:" The following is this verse paraphrased:

## PARAPHRASED

**Ephesians 2:8** "For by grace through faith ye endure, having been saved, and that grace is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 3:7 "the **gift** of the **grace** of God")

How did I get the word *endure*? You do not see it in this verse. That word is translated from the word translated *are ye* in Ephesians 2:8 where it says "For by grace **are ye**." The Greek word translated **are ye** in verse 8 is translated **endure** in Mark 4:17 "And have no root in themselves, and so **endure** but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended." The word *endure* is the same Greek word translated **are ye** in Ephesians 2:8. I did not grab this translation out of the air to suit my position.

It is by the grace of God that we endure trials and testings that comes our way.

The word *save* in verse 8 is in the perfect tense. How should that verb be translated? It should be translated "Having been saved." The perfect tense means that an event occurred in the past and the result of that event continues to the present. That is the perfect tense. You became a child of God in the past, you need the grace of God to endure. The way that you get the grace of God by faith. If you make shipwreck of the faith you may not get the grace. If you depart from the faith you will not get the grace you need to endure.

The grace that we need to endure is *not of yourselves*. You do not lather up grace. You go to the throne of grace and you obtain mercy and then by faith accept that grace for your self. It is the gift of God. Ephesians 3:7 "Whereof I was made a minister, according to **the gift of the grace of God** given unto me by the effectual working of his power." Grace is a gift and we can get it by faith.

Keep in mind that you are saved by the verb and you live by faith. Separating the verb and the noun will help you to understand how we are saved and how we live pleasing God. "The just shall live by faith." Hebrews 10:38. What does it mean to be just. To be obedient to the commandments of the Lord. Obedience is behaving yourself. A sinner can not live by faith. You can't be stealing and talk about your great faith. You live in sin, you not are living by faith.

#### **FAITH DEFINED**

**Hebrews 11:1** "Now faith is the **substance** of things **hoped for**, the **evidence** of things **not seen**."

Faith gives substance to things that we are anticipating in the future. Faith also gives evidence, where? in your life. Hope resides in your heart, and evidence comes out of the heart. It is out of the heart comes the issues of life. Proverbs 4:23 "Keep thy **heart** with all diligence; for out of it *are the issues* of life."

#### **WE HOPE FOR WHAT WE SEE NOT**

**Romans 8:24-25** "For we are **saved by hope**: but **hope that is seen is not hope**: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? 25. But if **we hope for that we see not**, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*."

The word *saved* here I believe has to do with deliverance. Paul did not include the hope of salvation to the Philippian Jailor, but assurance that he had salvation if he would *believe*. When you have hope you can let things slide, you can let things go because you something better coming. If we see something, we no longer have to hope for it. If you see heaven, the hope of heaven will be gone. If we see heaven, we will become impatient in our waiting.

#### **FAITH BY HEARING**

**Romans 10:17** "So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and hearing by the **word** of God [**Christ**, (gospel of Christ, Meat and not Milk)]."

How do we get faith? This verse gives us some insight into obtaining faith. It is the hearing of the word of Christ that produces faith. The word of Christ is not salvation verses which is the milk of the word, but the word of Christ is the meat of the Word. The word *Christ* emphasizes the kingdom of the heavens and it's glory. The word of the Lord Jesus deals with the cross and is the milk of the Word. The Word of Christ is the meat of the Word and it deals with the coming millennial kingdom of Christ. Faith is increased when we talk about the coming kingdom. Ruling and reigning with Christ. That is our hope.

#### **GOSPEL OF CHRIST**

**Romans 1:16-17** "For I am not ashamed of the **gospel of Christ** (is the word of the kingdom): for it is the **power of God** unto **salvation** (of the soul) to every one that **believeth**

[present tense]; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17. For **therein is the righteousness of God (which is by faith) revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**"

The gospel of Christ is not a message to the lost but a message to those who have been saved already. The gospel of Christ is a message to the just to encourage them to continue to live by faith.

The gospel of Christ is good news to every one that believeth. When you see the characters "eth" at the end of a word, this means the word is in the present tense. The present tense indicates continuous action.

The present active participle *believeth* indicates that they were living by faith and they needed the power of God to continue to live by faith. If they would continue to live by faith they would receive the righteousness of God, which is by faith, which means they would not be chargeable at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

The *gospel of Christ* reveals the *power of God* to the ones believing, present active. 1 Corinthians 1:24 "But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**"

The **power of God** unto **salvation** is the salvation of the soul as found in 1 Peter 1:5, 7-9 "Who are kept by **the power of God** through faith **unto salvation** ready to be **revealed** in the **last time**. 7. That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8. Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet **believing** [present active participle], ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9. **Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**"

I believe this salvation is the salvation that is in Christ and not the salvation that puts us into Christ. When the Philippian Jailor was saved, he was placed in the body of Christ. There is another salvation called the so great salvation of Hebrews 2:3 which I believe is the salvation that is in the body of Christ. This salvation is found in 2 Timothy 2:10 "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they **may** also **obtain** the **salvation which is in Christ Jesus** with eternal [age-lasting] glory." The word elect is found in 2 Timothy 2:10 and because of that I believe this so great salvation is the salvation in Christ that is offered to the many that have been called unto His kingdom and glory.

One of the reasons I preach the gospel of Christ from this pulpit is to bolster your faith. To give you something to hope for. To make it real to you that one day we will stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ and the faithful will rule and reign and the unfaithful will not. Period. That is as simple as I can put. If you are saved and your faithful and you live by faith you are pleasing God and you are going to rule and reign in his coming kingdom. If you are saved and you do not live a faithful life, you will be a servant in the Kingdom.

#### **PURPOSE OF FAITH**

**Hebrews 11:6** "But **without faith it is impossible to please him**: for he that cometh to **God** must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

What is faith for? To please Him. You want to please God, live by faith. How do you live by faith? by diligently seeking him. I had a long distance call this morning as well as some email and both are struggling in their prayer life and in their Bible reading. I just tried to encourage the person on the phone to be in the word and in prayer. If you are not, you are not going to make it. I like Luke 18:1 where it tells us "that men ought always to pray and not to faint." We don't al-

ways get what we pray for, but one thing for sure that prayer will do and that is not faint. If you don't get a thing out of your prayer that you ask for, the one thing you need more than any thing and that is not to faint. Not to quit. If your praying, your not going to quit. The devil knows how to get you to stop pleasing God and that is to get you stop reading your Bible and to quit praying. Sometimes we say we don't have time to pray, in but reality, you don't have time not to pray. You don't have time not to read your Bible. May the Lord help us to be faithful.

One purpose of faith is to please Him and one way that we know that we are pleasing Him is when we are diligently seeking Him. Diligence is seeking at Christmas and Easter, right? This is not the diligence he wants from us. It needs to be daily even moment by moment.

### JUSTIFICATION

**Galatians 2:16** "Knowing that a man is not **justified** by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have **believed** [aorist active indicative] in Jesus Christ (salvation), that we **might** be **justified** by the **faith** of [genitive, from] Christ (after salvation), and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be **justified**."

This shows that justification may be our portion after we are saved. Paul says that we believe first to be saved. This verb is in the same tense as Paul used with the Philippian Jailor. DOT. Paul continues by saying after salvation we may be justified by faith. Your salvation does not guarantee your justification. What is justification? If we are just we are not chargeable. If I drive 30 miles per hour in a 30 mile per hour zone, I am not under the law and I am not chargeable. If I drive over 30 miles per hour in a 30 Mile per hour zone, I am chargeable. If we live in sin, we will not stand in his presence justified unless we confess those sins and forsake them. Confessing of sin is the same thing as breaking the speed limit and driving to the nearest precinct and tell the officer at the desk that you were guilty of speeding and ask him to write you a ticket. The Lord does not operate that way. He lets you judge yourself and forsake the sin and he pronounces you just. The reason for this is that you might make shipwreck of the faith. You may depart from the faith and if you depart from the faith you will not justified.

### SUBSTANCE TO THINGS HOPED FOR

**Hebrews 11:1** "Now **faith** is the **substance of things hoped for**, the evidence of things not seen."

I want to emphasis the substance part of faith. Substance is what we can get our spiritual teeth into. Substance make what we hope for real.

### SUBSTANCE TO A LIVING HOPE

**1 Peter 1:3-5** "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a **lively hope by the resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4. **To an inheritance** incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Here we find a living hope. It says that he has begotten us again unto a living hope, that means he has begotten us before. When he begot us before is when we were born into the family of God. When He begot us again it was unto a living hope of an inheritance in verse 4. He gave us living hope and a High Priest so that we could get it. Jesus Christ is our high priest of the good things that are coming and they pertain to our inheritance in the coming kingdom of Christ.

One other thing. The word inheritance is not salvation. Inheritance is a family matter. You need to be in the family to get an inheritance. In the Bible, inheritance is a family matter and it deals with rewards for faithful service. Colossians 3:23-24. That inheritance will not be corruptible and will not be defiled and will not fade away. Why? Because faith is working, verse 5.

## WORKING FAITH

5. Who are **kept by** the power of God through **faith** unto **salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time."

If we make shipwreck of the faith the power of God no longer keeps our inheritance incorruptible, undefiled or from fading away. The salvation that was revealed in the last times is not the common salvation referred to as being born from above, this is the salvation that I have already mentioned, the salvation of the soul in 1 Peter 1:9

### HOPE OF SOUL SALVATION

**1 Peter 1:8-9** "Whom having **not seen**, ye love; in whom, though now ye **see him not**, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: **9**. Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the **salvation of your souls**."

The salvation that has been revealed in the last times is the salvation that will be enjoyed in the kingdom of heaven. This salvation is the salvation that we will enjoy if we pass the testing of our faith in 1 Peter 1:7 "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" If we do not make shipwreck of the faith, then the trial of our faith will not have been in vain. The end of continued faith will be an abundant entrance into the coming kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Faith puts substance to this end of our faith, "*even* the salvation of our souls."

### HOPE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

**Galatians 5:5** "For we through the Spirit **wait for the hope of righteousness by faith**."

Faith puts substance to the righteousness. What is the hope of righteousness? It is to stand in his presence un-chargeable. This righteousness is the righteousness that is beyond the righteousness of the Scribes and the Pharisees. The righteousness of the Scribes and the Pharisees is that of being just under the law. The righteousness we hope for is the righteousness which is by faith. This righteousness is dependent upon whether we continue in the faith or make shipwreck of the faith. If we depart from the faith we will not receive the righteousness which is by faith. We are waiting for this righteousness and we did not receive it when we were saved. This righteousness will be the righteousness of a good and faithful servant who will rule over many things in the coming kingdom, Matthew 25:21,23. If we do not have this righteousness we will be chargeable as the fearful servant in Matthew 25:26 "Thou wicked and slothful servant."

If we have a hope of righteousness we will be encouraged to continue to live by faith.

### HOPE OF GLORY

**Colossians 1:27** "To **whom** (the saints v.26) God would make known what *is* the **riches of the glory** of this **mystery** among the **Gentiles**; which is **Christ in you** (by faith), **the hope of glory**:"

Faith gives substance to the hope of glory. It was to the saints that God made known this hope of glory. This hope of glory had been kept secret according to Colossians 1:26 "*Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:" This hope of glory was revealed to his saint or holy ones. Entering into this glory of the coming kingdom is dependent upon whether Christ is in you. If Christ is not in you, you have made shipwreck of the faith. This is confirmed in Ephesians 3:17

### CHRIST IN YOU BY FAITH

**Ephesians 3:17** "That **Christ** may  **dwell in your hearts by faith**; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,"

The churches of Galatia had made shipwreck of the faith. Christ was no longer in them by faith. Paul expressed this in Galatians 4:19 "My little children, of whom I **travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,**" When we are born from above, or brought into the family of God, the Holy Spirit indwells us. It takes faith and grace for Christ to be formed in us.

If we are living by faith we have Christ in us. Christ does not dwell in us personally, but we have mind of Christ, we have spirit of Christ which is submission. The reason that Christ can not dwell in us personally is because He is at the right hand of God the Father in his body of flesh and bone. What is dwelling in that is of Christ? It is his attitude, his purpose, his spirit that will be in us. Jesus told his disciples in John 4:34 ". . . My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." If we have this attitude and purpose then Christ dwell in us.

Paul further chides them when he told them that they were fallen from grace because they were trying to stand justified by the law. Galatians 5:4 "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whatsoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

### **HOPE OF AGELASTING LIFE**

**Titus 3:7** "That being justified by his grace, we should be made **heirs** according to **the hope of eternal** (kingdom age) **life.**"

The substance of hope in this verse is that of agelasting life.

The word eternal comes from the noun *age*. The task in translating this noun into an adjective is not easy. One translates it *age abiding*. Another translates it *agelasting*. Because the word age is used as an adjective, the age that has hope associated with it is the age to come which is the millennial age or kingdom. Faith put substance to the hope of life of honor and glory in the coming kingdom of our Lord.

When I believed on the Lord Jesus I received a sure thing. I became a child of God. Why do I know that it is a sure thing, because the Bible says if I would believe I would be saved. That is a sure thing, but life for the age is not a sure thing because it is something that we hope for.

### **EVIDENCE OF FAITH**

**Hebrews 11:1** "Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the **evidence of things not seen.**"

What is the evidence of things not seen and therefore hoped for? The evidence is in the way we respond in life style to the promises of things that we do not have not but hoped for.

### **DILIGENTLY SEEKING**

**Hebrews 11:6** "But without **faith** *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of **them that diligently seek him.**"

If you are living by faith, diligence in seeking him will be evident in your life.

### **GOOD WORKS**

**James 2:18** "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy **faith without thy works,** and I will show thee my faith by my **works.**"

The evidence of faith is works. If we are ministering to the saint as we would minister to the Lord we are maintaining good works and therefore there is evidence manifested of our faith. Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto **good works,** which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Those who enter into the kingdom are those who minister to the Lord. Matthew 25:35-36 "For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36. Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." This ministry to the brethren is evidence that faith is a live and well in the individual's life. Matthew 25:40

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me."

I can not show you faith, but I can show you evidence of it by what I do. I can't prove light but I can show you the evidence of light. When you flip the light switch the light comes and that is the evidence of light.

### WORK WITHOUT MURMURING

**Philippians 2:13-14** "For it is God which **worketh in you both to will and to do** of *his* good **pleasure**. 14. Do all things **without murmurings** and disputings:"

The evidence of that is service without murmuring and dialog with God. The word disputing is also translated *reasoning*. The children of Israel murmured and disputed with Moses and Aaron when they said we are tired of this manna. That is the same thing that many say to day, we hate to study the Bible. They were dialoging with Moses and God and they reasoned that quail would be just the thing. God gave them what they wanted and along with it a bad case of salmonella. While they were eating that quail, it began to come out of their nose.

Evidence of faith is submitting to the will of God by doing it because you know it pleases Him.

### CONTENTMENT

**1 Timothy 6:6** "But **godliness** with contentment is great **gain**."

Evidence of living by faith is contentment.

**1 Timothy 6:10** "For the love of money . . . which while some **coveted after**, they have **erred from the faith**, and pierced themselves through with **many sorrows**."

Pursuing money and earthly security that money seems to provide is not evidence of faith. Being content with what you and letting God give you what you need is evidence of faith.

### STEADY AND UNMOVEABLE

**1 Corinthians 15:58** "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Evidences of faith is found in the words stedfast, unmoveable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord. Are you stedfast? Can the Lord count on you? Are you unmoveable in the things of the Lord? Are you tossed to and froe by every wind of doctrine. You can't make up your mind. Here then there, unstable as water. The thought here is that the evidence of faith is being stedfast, unmoveable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain. That is evidence of faith because of the substance of faith that our labor is not a waste of time.

### BE OBEDIENT

**Hebrews 10:38** "Now the **just** shall live **by faith**: but if *any man draw back*, my soul shall have **no pleasure** in him."

The warning of Hebrews 10:38 should get our attention. We are just because of obedience and we begin to show the evidence of faith by our lifestyle then we draw back. If we draw back God is not going to be happy with you. That is what happened to Israel. When they drew back, the Lord said you can't go into the land flowing with milk and honey. You will wander around the wilderness for forty years till you kick the bucket. What a drag for drawing back from the faith. We are so willing sometime to sacrifice our future on the altar of the immediate.

### EXAMINE YOURSELVES

**2 Corinthians 13:5** "**Examine yourselves**, whether ye be in the **faith**; **prove your own selves**. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus **Christ is in you**, except ye be **repro-**



**bates?"**

How can we examine ourselves, whether we be in the faith? A good way to examine ourselves is to go over the evidence of faith presented by the word and see if they apply in our lives. Are we content, satisfied, steadfast, abounding in the work? This is a good place to start. Is the substance of the hope of glory and honor in the coming kingdom firm and settled in our minds. We know whether or not Christ is in us because we are not resisting God's work in us *both to will and do of his good pleasure*. Are we doing that?

The reason that we need to examine ourselves is so that we will not be reprobates. The word reprobate is from a compound Greek word with the negative article "a" in front of the word "approve" To be a reprobate is to be disapproved. If we endure the testing of our faith we will stand approved in his presence. James 1:12 "Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." The word *tried* is the word *approve* which is part of the word *reprobate*. Those who are approved will receive the crown of life which will be needed to reign with Christ in the millennial kingdom. If we are reprobate, we will be disapproved and denied a crown. Crowns are symbols of authority that kings and lords will wear because they examined themselves whether they be in the faith or not.

We are to examine ourselves whether we be in the faith. This examination is not to find out if we are saved or not but are we are pleasing God. We are not saved by the noun faith. We are saved by the verb *believe* and we live by the noun *faith*.

I would encourage all of us to examine ourselves to see if we be in the faith. Is the substance of the hope, produced by faith, real in our hearts and minds. Is the evidence of faith active in our lives. If this is true, then we will stand approved and un-chargeable at the Judgment Seat of Christ and reign with Him for 1,000 years.