

Upcoming Events...
Galatians Class: Every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.
Business Meeting: Today at 4:30 p.m.
Ladies Bible Class: July 15
Barnabas Group Meeting: July 24

To Think About...

“God doesn't love us because we are important. We are important because God loves you.”

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

“Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrows; it only saps today of its strength.”

“A hypocrite is a person who is not himself on Sundays.”

July Birthdays

22 Morgie McKnight

30 Willie Henderson

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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What Kind of Faith Do You Want?

By J. Randal Matheny

One of the world's largest businesses tailors its offerings to people's desires and needs. Do you want a big business that can become a career and pay you more now than you could ever make where you are? They've got the plan for you. Or is your ambition level lower, your enthusiasm small, so that you want to just supplement your income with a bit of extra? They've also got a plan for you. Both plans are good.

The Way of Jesus Christ does not tailor its plan to the ambition or desire of the disciple. God has but one plan. We do not opt for different levels, types, or models of faith. There is but "one faith" Ephesians 4.3.

God shows us what that one faith is (and is not) and how we can acquire and nourish it.

Faith is not secret, as the gospel of John shows us. Faith declares itself. Faith cannot keep quiet, but is always confessing and professing the Lord, 2 Corinthians 4.13; Galatians 1.23.

Faith is not ignorant. Faith and knowledge go together, 2 Peter 3.13. In fact, the Bible speaks of "the faith" as that body of truths that must be accepted and proclaimed, 1 Timothy 4.1; Jude 3. To be saved, faith must believe certain truths, Hebrews 11.6.

Faith is not inactive. Rather, it cannot be still, Acts 14.22. It must be moving, up and about, serving, seeking, speaking a good word for the Master. Faith needs action, but action that expresses the essence of its nature.

Faith is not stationary. It moves always forward toward its goal. It seeks maturity, growth, progress for self and for others, Philippians 1.25; Titus 1.1. And for the body of Christ. Faith has a goal: the salvation of souls, 1 Peter 1.9.

Faith is not solitary. It seeks company, Philippians 1.27. It is not heartless, but loving and ever seeks to express that love. Paul spoke of "the faith you share with us" Philemon 6. We hold it in common, Jude 3.

Just as there are gospels that are no gospel at all, Galatians 1.6-9, there are also faiths that are no faith. But there is only one saving faith, James 2.14.

We can opt for any number of faiths. But only one will get us into the presence of God and into the eternal abode where the faithful will live forever.

The Word Among Us

By Ron Bartanen

The apostle John began his gospel: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten, full of grace and truth"* (John 1:1, 14).

The Bible, the inspired written word of God tells us of the personal living Word of God coming and dwelling among us. Jesus didn't come into the world simply to deliver some message—prophets frequently had done that throughout the Old Testament period. The world was in need of someone greater than a prophet—one who would reveal to us the fullness of the glory of God, embodying totally His "grace and truth." Jesus came as the living Word of God, *"the image of the invisible God"* (Colossians 1:15), in Whom dwells *"the fullness of the Godhead bodily"* (2:9).

God, the Father, has not only *"spoken to us by His Son"* (Hebrews 1:1) with oral and written messages, but also His Son is the message. He personally is *"the Truth"* (John 14:6). He is personally God's greatest message to an alien world, conveying the love of God and offering hope to man. It is one thing to read God's message (which is good), but it is another thing to be led by that word to see, by faith, that message embodied in a Person—Jesus Christ.

In Jesus we are able to see not only God above us, but also, as John declared, God *"among us."* Or, as it was prophesied in Isaiah 7:14, and quoted in Matthew 1:23, *"A virgin shall conceive and bare a son, and they shall call his name Emanuel, that is, God with us."* He came among us, bearing our griefs and carrying our sorrows (Isaiah 53:3). He, too, had to struggle with the same temptations to which we are heir, in that *"He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin"* (Hebrews 4:15). In our darkest hours we can take comfort in the words of one of my favorite hymns: in answering the question, "Does Jesus Care?" the reply is:

***"Oh yes, He cares, I know He cares;
His heart is touched with my grief.
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares."***

Have I put my trust in the Word among us?

Golden Expressions...

- **No life is too broken for God to repair.**
- **To look around is to be distressed. To look within is to be depressed. To look up is to be blessed.**
- **Sometimes God calms the raging storm. Sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child.**