

Our Precious Faith

1 Pet. 1:7-9

Introduction:

- A. Our faith more precious than purified gold.
- B. Our faith is precious for three basic reasons:

Discussion:

I. Our Faith Is Precious Because it Is Factual.

- A. Old Testament prophecy a fact. (cf. Is. 53; Ps. 22).
- B. The person of Jesus of Nazareth is a fact. (as sure as any historical figure)
- C. The claims of Jesus are facts.
 - 1. He claimed Messiahship. (John 4:25,26).
 - 2. He claimed Deity. (Mt. 16:16,17; John 8:58).
 - 3. He claimed Divine Authority. (Matt. 28:18-21).
- D. The publication of gospel story by eyewitnesses a fact. (cf. 1 Cor. 15:5-8).
 - 1. If a hoax, what motive?
 - 2. If untrue, how explain effects it had upon them.
- E. Strong death of early Christians a fact.
- F. Establishment and group of church a fact.
 - 1. No material gain to offer.
 - 2. No means to force allegiance.
 - 3. Often meant death of imprisonment.
- G. Bible in my hand is a fact.

II. Our Faith Is Precious Because It Is Trusting.

- A. Not faith in just anything.
 - 1. Not a mere philosophy.
 - 2. Not in humanity. (Jer. 10:23; 1 Cor. 2:5).
- B. Faith or trust in Deity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).
 - 1. In Divine providence. (Mt. 6:30,31).
 - 2. In Divine promises. (conditional and unconditional).
 - 3. In Divine plan.
 - a. Of salvation.
 - b. Of living.

III. Our Faith is Precious Because It Is Living (Jas. 2:14-25)

- A. Heroes of Faith had living faith. (Heb. 11)
- B. Abraham and Rahab had living faith.
- C. Jailer saved by living faith. (Acts 16:30-34).
- D. No one saved by faith alone - a dead faith.
 - 1. Not from past sins.
 - 2. Not eternally - faith must be kept. (2 Tim. 4:7).

Conclusion:

- A. Faith depends of historical facts - not philosophical thinking or myths.
- B. Faith benefits only when we obey it.