

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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THE FAITH

Larry R. Ping II

The phrase "the faith" appears 42 times in the New Testament. Usually, it does not pertain to a man's personal faith as described in Hebrews 11. Rather, it is making reference to a "system of faith," in this case the New Testament. Have you considered the various things the Bible has to say about "the faith?"

1) The Faith Must Be Obeyed. Luke records "And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great number of the priests were obedient to the faith" (Acts 6:7). Obedience is knitted together with salvation in Heb. 5:8-9. Yet, we must be aware there are those who are working hard and tirelessly to "turn away" folks from "the faith" (Acts 13:8). Be one who reads, studies and obeys the words of the New Testament.

2) The Faith Must Be Continued In. Paul worked hard in "confirming the souls

of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith" (Acts 14:22). Obedience to the faith is not a one-time event. It is a matter of remaining steady and constant in God's Word. The Revelator commanded "be thou faithful until death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). Be one who stands "fast in the faith" (I Cor. 16:13).

3) The Faith Must Be Preached. It was said of Paul, "That he which persecuted us in the past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed" (Gal. 1:23). The faith, left alone and unpreached, will accomplish nothing, much as the "seed yet in the barn" (Hag. 2:19). In his opening to the Corinthians, Paul said, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1:18). We must be as the Lord, about our "Father's business" (Lk. 2:49). Are you? Am I?

4) The Faith Brings About Unity. The Ephesians

were taught "Till we all come in the unity of the faith" (Eph. 4:13). God's Word has always had this uniting power. As Ezra read from the "book of the Law of Moses," the people had gathered together as "one man" (Neh. 8:1). At the tower of Babel, take notice the speaking of one language brought the people together, but speaking differently drove them apart (Gen. 11:1-9). So it is with us. Speaking words from "the faith" will unite; speaking of our own thought and opinions will bring division.

5) The Faith Must Be Contended For. Jude pleaded to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). To contend, literally, is to "face the foe." There are many "enemies of the cross of Christ" (Php. 3:18). Paul warned these enemies "mouths must be stopped" (Titus 1:11). Those who intend to warp and twist God's Word (II Pet. 3:16) must know there are those who stand ready to defend it. Are you? Am I?

GREAT QUESTIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Larry R. Ping II

One of the greatest tools of learning is asking questions. Posing a question causes one to think, to contemplate. The New Testament is full of great questions. Consider.

1) Which Of You By Taking Thought Can Add One Cubit Unto His Stature (Matt. 6:27)?

2) Good Master, What Shall I Do That I May Inherit Eternal Life (Mk. 10:17)?

3) And Why Call Ye Me, Lord, Lord, And Do Not The Things Which I Say (Lk. 6:46)?

4) And Whomsoever Liveth And Believeth In Me Shall Never Die. Believest Thou This (Jn. 11:26)?

5) Sirs, What Must I Do To Be Saved (Acts 16:30)?

6) Shall We Continue In Sin, That Grace May Abound (Rom. 6:1)?

7) Is Christ Divided? Was Paul Crucified For You? Or Were You Baptized In The Name Of Paul (I Cor. 1:13)?

8) For What Fellowship Hath Righteousness With Unrighteousness? And What Communion Hath Light With Darkness (II Cor. 6:14)?

9) For Do I Now Persuade Men, Or God? Or Do I Seek To Please Men (Gal. 1:10)?

10) O Foolish Galatians, Who Hath Bewitched You, That Ye Should Not Obey The Truth, Before Whose Eyes Jesus Christ Hath Been Evidently Set Forth, Crucified Among You (Gal. 3:1)?

11) Am I Therefore Become Your Enemy, Because I Tell You The Truth (Gal. 4:16)?

12) Who Did Hinder You That Ye Should Not Obey The Truth (Gal. 5:7)?

13) Remember Ye Not, That, When I Was Yet With You, I Told You These Things (II Thess. 2:5)?

14) For If A Man Not Know How To Rule His Own House, How Shall He Take Care Of The Church Of God (I Tim. 3:5)?

15) If Ye Endure Chastening, God Dealeth With

You As With Sons; For What Son Is He Whom The Father Chasteneth Not (Heb. 12:7)?

16) What Doth It Profit, My Brethren, Though A Man Say He Hath Faith, And Have Not Works? Can Faith Save Him (James 2:14)?

17) For The Time Is Come That Judgment Must Begin At The House Of God: And If It First Begin At Us, What Shall The End Be Of Them That Obey Not The Gospel Of God (I Pet. 4:17)?

18) Seeing Then That All These Things Shall Be Dissolved, What Manner Of Persons Ought Ye To Be In All Holy Conversation And Godliness, Looking For And Hasting Unto The Coming Of The Day Of God, Wherein The Heavens Being On Fire Shall Be Dissolved, And The Elements Shall Melt With Fervent Heat (II Pet. 3:11-12)?

19) Who Is He That Overcometh The World, But He That Believeth That Jesus Is The Son Of God (I Jn. 5:4)?

Great questions emanating from God's Word deserve our utmost attention! Have you given that yet?

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
2720 Battery Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 672
Vincennes, IN 47591

Phone: 317.308.8288
Website: www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com
Email: firstcitychurchofchrist@gmail.com

MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY
Bible Study – 10:00 am
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study – 7:00 pm