

The Importance of Finding a Life of Faith

by Dean Moore

Finding true peace, happiness, and a real hope of everlasting life seems next to impossible to the average person today. We live in world of unbelief, false religions, vanity, moral corruption, and rebellion. There has been great increase in knowledge and education, yet the world grows more dangerous day by day! The lives of millions of people are now in greater danger than any time in history! More and more nations are acquiring nuclear weapons for war while their leaders boast in their power to destroy their enemies. It is quite evident that the “wisdom” of the world is not real wisdom at all! Mankind needs truth. They need to think and live in harmony with reality!

Much of reality can be seen: but most is invisible to the human eye. This is where faith comes in. It is the confidence or assurance of that which is not visible. As eyes are a gift of our Creator, so faith is His gift. The Bible says: “By grace are you saved through faith; and that is not of yourselves; it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8). With faith we become aware of innumerable truths concerning God’s work with people in the past, present, and future. We learn to understand His nature. We are able to appreciate His infinite power, wisdom, and holiness! We begin to realize that He is the most important part of our environment! Because environment is one of the main influences in a person’s life we are able to become holy because He is holy. We can become loving because of His love. We can grow in His likeness!

In the beginning man was made similar to his Creator in various respects, but his unbelief and rebellion corrupted his innocence. He lost the ecstasy of loving fellowship with his Maker! Mankind has inherited a degenerate nature that tends to transgress the eternal laws of righteousness. He is inclined to be self-centered, proud, and mainly interested in sensual pleasure. In place of desiring purity and love that puts the welfare of others first, man tends to choose self. In place of giving credit to Whom credit is due and humbly glorifying his Creator, man has his substitutes. He may even deny the existence of his Maker! Separation

from all that is ungodly is essential if he is to have association with his Heavenly Father! For this reason we are commanded to “come out” from the thinking of the world. We read:

“Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? You are the temple of the living God; as God as said: ‘I will dwell with them, and walk with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.’

Wherefore come out from among them, and be separate, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty! Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved; let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”
(II Cor. 6:14-18; 7:1)

For further study read:

Isaiah. 43:5; 44:24; 45:9, 11, 12, 18, 19, 22-24
Psalms 104:24-31; Isaiah 6:3, 66:1, 2, 23
Isaiah 40:6-8, 12-15, 22-28
Habakkuk 2:14
Psalms 19:1, 2; 89:11; 90:1, 2; 102:25-27

We can see that God has spoken to us by His wonderful works! He has also spoken to us by His written work. We can read the words of Moses, the prophets of Israel, words of Christ, and the writers of the New Testament. Many millions of people have found this witness to be true! They found God’s provisions to be more than adequate for their greatest needs! From the scriptures they learned to see things in the right perspective, not human unbelief!

All people are totally dependent, without God’s provision they would die! Notice the following texts: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above

from the Father of lights, with whom is no variation, neither shadow of turning.”
(James 1:17)

Charge them that are rich in this life that they be not high-minded, not trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.” (I Tim. 6:17)

“Who makes you different from one another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you have received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it? (I Cor. 4:7)

“O give thanks to the Lord of lords... to Him who alone does great wonders... to Him that by wisdom made the heavens... to His that stretches out the earth above the waters... to Him that made great lights... the sun to rule the day... the moon and stars to rule the night... to Him who gives food to all flesh: for His mercy endures forever!” (Psalms 136:3-9, 25)

For further study read:

Psalms 145:15, 16

Matt.5:45; 6:9-11, 25-33

Isaiah 42:5

Romans 8:31, 32

It is easy to see that our future depends upon the will of God! We see in scripture that His is saying: “Look unto me and be saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else!” (Isa. 45:22)

Each of us must decide whose thinking we are going to trust. We are created responsible beings that must give account! Our entire future depends upon our response. All history shows that people were blessed or rewarded when they chose God’s way! There was judgement when they forsook His way! An example is the flood in the days of Noah. We read: “The earth was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and

behold it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted His way upon the earth.” (Gen. 6:11, 12) Jesus warned that this condition would be repeated just prior to the end of the age! He said: “As the days of Noah were, so shall it also be at the coming of the Son of Man.” (Matt. 24:37) The time of the flood was a type of the far greater judgement at the close of the age. Human government failed in Noah’s day and will fail again, only in a more extensive way. We read: “For there shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever shall be. And except those days are shortened, there would not flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matt. 24:21, 22).

One of the most obvious things that we learn in our study is that judgment comes upon those who have not repented and accepted God’s provision for forgiveness. Repentance and forgiveness are essential. They are not optional. Had not Christ suffered the judgement of men, no one would be saved. Everyone would endure his own judgement.

We read: “The times of ignorance God overlooked: but now commands all men everywhere to repent: because He has appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He has ordained: whereof He has given assurance unto all men, in that he has raised him from the dead.” (Acts 17:30, 31) Jesus said: “I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement.” (Matt. 12:36) Paul said: “We shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ. For it is written, “As I live says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So everyone of us shall give account of himself to God.” (Rom 14:10-12) Peter said: “Forasmuch as Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind: for he that has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin: that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lust of me, to the will of Gld. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revealing’s, banqueting’s, and abominable idolatries; wherein they think it strange that you run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: who give account to Him that is ready to judge the living and the dead.” (I Peter 4:1-5)

We should meditate day and night upon the thoughts of God revealed in His word. In this way He leads us out of the world's thinking and into His own! We are told plainly that the "ungodly shall not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord know the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. (Psalm 1:5, 6)

How thankful we should be that our Creator is righteous, loving, patient and forgiving! At the greatest cost to Himself He provided us with our Savior! In all the suffering of the Jewish people throughout the centuries He suffered! We read in Isaiah 63:9 "In all their afflictions He was afflicted and the angel of His presence saved them: in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and bare them, and carried them all the days of old." How much more was His suffering when He allowed His only loving precious, sinless son to bear the judgement of sinful mankind! It is not possible to fully comprehend this. Nor can we comprehend the love of Christ. Every day of his life was spent for the welfare of people. He chose His fathers will in place of his own. He placed all of his trust in Him; knowing that He would bring about His great salvation for mankind!

Our response to all of this is of supreme importance. It is easy for us to pay little attention. We could center our thinking on ourselves. We could make our comfort and pleasure the main thing. We could just take all that has been done for us for granted, and occupy ourselves with other things. However, before long, we would lose everything! God told the people of Israel "The things that I command you are for your good always." (Deut. 6:24) In view of all that He has done for us throughout our lives, and the cost that He and His son have paid, shouldn't our response be one of humble gratitude that believes and trusts as a small child?

In Isaiah 57:15 we read: "For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, I dwell in a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."

Notice the words of F.M. Lehman:

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.

Refrain:

Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
The saints' and angels' song.

When hoary time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When men who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—
The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

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