

The Faith of a Sojourner

(two lesson series, or one longer sermon)

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- #230 **This World Is Not My Home:** This world is not my home, I'm just a passing thru. . . .

- we are sojourners, strangers passing through

- SR - Heb. 11:13 "All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth."

- faith – sojourn as strangers and exiles on the earth

- heaven is our home, not earth (This World Is Not My Home, chorus)

- lesson: explore the faith of a sojourner – shows us the faith we need to please God, go to heaven

➤ A sojourner's faith is based on revelation

- illus.: Abraham's faith was based on revelation – Father of all who live by faith (Rom. 4; Gal. 3-4)

- didn't leave his father for the promise land until God commanded, revealed it

- only believed he would have a son in his old age, after body dead, because God said so

- took his son to offer as burnt sacrifice because God commanded

- if would have offered without God's command, vain worship (Mk. 7:6-9)

- without faith, it's impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6)

➤ - Rom. 10:17 our faith is based on God's word – believe what God says, not more or less

➤ - Heb. 11:8 God called, Abraham obeyed

- 2 Th. 2:14 God calls us by the gospel – Christians are the ones who obey

- Abraham's faith was based on God's word – revelation

- as God's children, our faith is based on revelation from God, nothing else, pleasing to God

faith: based on revelation

➤ **A sojourner's faith is obedient to God**

- **illus.: Noah**

- **God commanded Noah** to build an ark for the saving of himself and his family
- **Noah obeyed, reverence** (moved with godly fear, NKJ)

- **illus.: Abraham obeyed God, according to His word, when commanded to offer Isaac**

➤ - **Ja. 2:20-22 faith perfected by works**

- **Ja. 2:14 faith without obedience** (work) results in **damnation**
- **Ja. 2:19 faith without obedience** (work) is the **same as the demons**

➤ - **Heb. 12:28 we serve God with reverence and awe** (godly fear, NKJ) – **obedience (Heb. 5:9)**

- **1 Pet. 3:21 we are saved like Noah**

- **not by building an ark, but by obeying the word of God, thus saved through water like Noah**
- **baptized for remission of sins**, not just pray or believe or repent or confess or obey human doctrine

- **as God's children, we base our faith on revelation from God, and obey**

- **if God said it**, we believe it and obey
- **if God hasn't said it**, we don't believe it and disobey

faith: based on revelation, obedient

- **A sojourner's faith trusts God and obeys, even when we don't understand**
 - **illus.: Abraham offered his son, trusting God, although he didn't understand**
 - **R- Heb. 11:17-18, 19 faith, trust, even if not understand** – knew God would keep promise somehow
- - **illus.: imagine being Rahab, who was not an Israelite, but obeyed God by faith** – without understanding?
 - **Heb. 11:31 not perish with those who were disobedient** – because she was obedient
 - **how could she understand?** – details were nonsensical
 - put a cord out a particular window, her and family stay in house which was on wall
- - **2 Cor. 5:7 we walk by faith, not by sight**
 - **of necessity won't understand the details of everything**, or wouldn't be faith
 - baptism for remission of sins
 - assembly on Sunday
 - emblems of Lord's Supper
 - individual work v. denominational work
- - **Heb. 11:17a TEST: commands don't understand through human logic**
- - **1 Cor. 1:18, 21 God does this to save those who believe** – not humanly wise
 - **as God's children, we base our faith on revelation from God and obey, even when don't understand**
 - pass the test

-----end Part I

faith: based on revelation, obedient, even if not understand

➤ **A sojourner's faith is accounted as righteousness** – that why it saves us

- **Gal. 3:6-9** Abraham's faith reckoned as righteousness

➤ - **Rom. 4:12** we walk in the steps of the faith of Abraham

- our faith is reckoned as righteousness

- **reckoned:**

- **literally:** an accounting, a numeric calculation

- **metaphorically:** an imputation (accounting) of one thing, as if it was something else

- **our faith is imputed as righteousness**, without which we'd be eternally lost because we can't be righteous based on merit

➤ - **illus.:** God has a ledger with each person's name on it

- **beside each name is a column:** righteous, unrighteous

- **when we're born, there's a check mark in the "righteous" column**, because we've not sinned

- go to heaven if we die

➤ - **when we grow older, we sin, and the check marked is moved to the "unrighteous" column**

- go to hell if we die

- **there is no way man can get the check mark back to "righteous" because of sin**

- eternally doomed to hell

- **but God came up with a plan so that faith could be accounted as righteousness**, and we can get the check mark moved back to the "righteousness" column

➤ - **when we have the faith God requires, justified by works (obedience), it is accounted as righteousness**

➤ - **At what point is our faith reckoned (imputed) as righteousness?**

- **Gal. 3:6-7, 26-29** when we are baptized, and become sons of God as Abraham's descendants

➤ - **1 Pet. 3:21** appeal to God

faith: based on revelation, obedient, even if not understand, accounted for righteousness

➤ **A sojourner's faith is growing and maturing**

- **illus.:** people who truly believe have a faith that grows and matures over time – evident in their actions
 - **Abraham:** deceived people twice, that his wife was his sister, not married – fear, lack of faith
 - later: faith grew to believe he would have a son in his old age, after had doubted and had child through Hagar – increased in faith, not doubt God's promise
 - later: obeyed when commanded to sacrifice son, not understand – believed God's promise, strong faith
 - **Rahab:** harlot in Jericho – little, no faith
 - later: believed, hid Israelite spies, obeyed the commands to be saved, not destroyed with the unbelievers in Jericho – rapidly growing faith
 - later: married an Israelite, became mother of Boaz, lineage of Christ – faith
 - **Peter:** denied the Lord three times, cursing, afraid of reprisal from the Jews (poss. crucifixion with Jesus?)
 - later: became a leader among the apostles and did great miracles – great faith
 - later: died as Jesus had indicated, glorifying God, crucified upside down (history) – strong faith
 - **Paul:** didn't believe, persecuted Christians, put in prison, to death – no faith
 - later: saw Jesus, became as apostle, sacrificed greatly for the gospel – great faith
 - later: died, beheaded in Rome (history) – because of his faith

➤ **- 2 Th. 1:3 our faith grows as Christians**

- every faithful child of God grows and matures throughout life
 - **illus.:** Jesus grew in wisdom while upon the earth
- our growth is evident in our deeds
 - **illus.:** Abraham, Rahab, Peter, Paul (above)

➤ **- How do we grow in faith? – know word, sing, pray**

- grow in the grace and **knowledge of Christ (2 Pet. 3:18)**
 - God gives us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through knowledge **(2 Pet. 1:3)**
 - as a result we partake of God's divine nature **(2 Pet. 1:4)**
- the word in Christ dwelling in us richly as we **sing spiritual songs** to God, and one another **(Col. 3:16)**
- devoted to **prayer**, keeping alert in it, with attitude of thanksgiving **(Col. 4:2)**
- **assemble together** whereby we're stimulated to love and good work **(Heb. 10:24-25)**

faith: based on revelation, obedient, even if not understand, accounted for righteousness, growing and maturing

- **A sojourner's faith results in living to obtain an eternal inheritance in heaven** – prize, eternal life
 - **Heb. 11:9-10** faith of sojourner – attitude of life on earth
 - living like alien in foreign land – world not home
 - looking for city of God – goal in life, get to heaven
 - **Heb. 11:13-16a** faith of sojourner
 - die in faith – faithful when die
 - see, welcome the promises from a distance – live like you already have them
 - confess strangers and exiles – attitude evident in speech – verbally affirm
 - made clear to others they were seeking another country – didn't hide who they were and what wanted
 - desire is for heaven – What do you desire more than anything?
 - **illus.: 230: This World Is Not My Home - review words**
 - vs. 1: treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue – faith of sojourner
 - **Matt. 6:19-21** store up treasure in heaven
 - **1 Tim. 6:18-19** by sharing
 - What affect does having treasure in heaven and not on earth have upon us?
 - heart is where treasure is
 - vs. 2: I know my Savior will take me thru tho' I am weak and poor – faith of sojourner
 - **1 Jn. 5:13** know we're saved, because believe in the name of Jesus
 - **1 Jn. 4:17-18** confident in the day of judgment – perfect love casts out fear
 - **1 Jn. 5:3** love God and keep commandments – love: heart, soul, mind, strength
 - What affect does knowing we're saved have upon us? – **Heb. 12:1-2**
 - **chorus: I can't feel at home in this world anymore** – faith of sojourner
 - What does it mean to feel that this world is not our home?
 - people: family, Christians, unbelievers
 - \$, job, possessions
 - time, priorities
 - worship, church, personal work
 - **chorus: I have no friend like the Lord** – faith of sojourner
 - What does it mean to have no other friend like the Lord?
 - dedication
 - who's most important – 1st
 - who seek to please above all others
 - we are living for an eternal prize, not a worldly prize
 - everything in our lives reflects this attitude
 - world not my home, just passing thru, treasures laid up in heaven my home

Summary / Inv.

- #230 **This World Is Not My Home**, review verses and chorus

- **Do you have the faith of a sojourner?**

- based on revelation (Bible)
- trusts God
- obeys God
- accounted as righteousness
- growing and maturing
- living for an eternal inheritance in heaven

- **If you do, you're a child of God, saved by grace through faith, in obedience to His word!**

- **inv.:** if not obeyed the gospel. . . . if strayed away from the faith. . . .