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, reveled 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 in 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, linage 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. . .