

CHRISTIAN FAITH (part 2)

We are currently studying a series entitled, **Teleiology** (A study of spiritual growth maturity).

We are studying twelve meat doctrines of the church age that are essential for spiritual growth maturity.

(Heb.5:14) “But solid food (he stereos trophe) is (eimi/ p.a.ind.3ps) for the mature (teleios), who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good from evil.”

(2 Pet.3:18a) “But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

**This is our second lesson on the doctrine of the Christian’s Faith
that is essential to spiritual growth maturity.**

1. There are two systems of faith in the world in opposition to one another:

- The World’s System, Cosmos Diabolicus (CD) based on Satan’s belief system (2 Cor.4:4)
- God’s System, Divine Viewpoint (DV) based on God’s Word.

(1 Cor.2:13-14) “Now we have received, **not** the spirit of the world, **but** the Spirit who is from God, **that** we might know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, **not** in words taught by human wisdom, **but** in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.”

A person builds his beliefs about life, people, and God from one or both of these two faith systems (Prov.23:7) [belief to behavior, “a person is what he thinks!”] (2 Cor.11:3; 1 Cor.3:18; Rom.16:18).

(1 Cor.2:5) “And my message and my preaching were **not** in persuasive words of wisdom, **but** in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **that your faith** should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God

Paul referred to this worldly view (CD) as still present in the life of a believer:

(Eph.4:22-24) “That, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and **that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”; Col.3:8-10)

(Rom.12:2) “And do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

2. Very often these two systems are in conflict in a Christian’s life.

(Matt.4:1-11) “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”

Two examples of this angelic conflict are Stumbling Block Peter (Matt.16:21-23) and Doubting Thomas. (John 20:24-29).

Five points

‘Stumbling Block’ Peter

‘Doubting’ Thomas

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- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

3. All the religions of the world have some form of a faith system. The question is - faith in what?

What do you believe to be the truth and **why** do you believe it?

Paul to the Athenians: (Acts 17:31) “Because He has **fixed a day** in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

Another example was a legalistic movement in early Christianity known as the **Judaizers** who taught that you had to believe the gospel and be circumcised in order to be saved. (Acts 15:1) “And some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, **you cannot be saved.**’ (Gal.2:16; Eph.2:8-9)

Paul to Judaizers: (Gal.6:15) “For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a **new creation.**” (Gal.2:16) “Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be **justified by faith in Christ,** and not by the works of the law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.”

4. Therefore the essential factor of the Christian’s faith is identifying the working object – “Faith in the what and the why?”

For the Christian, it is always the Word of God, (Rom.10:17) “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Col.2:6-7)

In the Church Age, (today) it is **categories of doctrine** of the Word of God. For example, the working object of salvation is faith in **the gospel of Jesus Christ** (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; John 3:16; Eph.2:8-9; Rom.3:21-26).

Legalism: “But certain ones of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed, stood up. Saying, ‘It is necessary to circumcise them, and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses.’” (Acts 15:5)

Grace: “But we believe that we are saved through grace of the Lord, in the same way as they also are.” (Acts 15:11) “Who (God) desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim.2:4)

- **Faith in what and why? And it is true?**

(2 Tim.2:15) “Be diligent to preserve yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the Word of truth.”

(1 Thess.2:13) “And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the Word of God’s message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, **the Word of God,** which also **performs its work in you who believe.**” (Rom.4:21)

(John 14:26) “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is **the Spirit of Truth,** Who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me.”

(John 8:31-32) “Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘**If** (3cc) you abide in My Word, **then** you are truly disciples of Mine.’ **And** you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”