

The Story of Jesus

Published By Evangelist Van Billingsley

Summer 2012

Preaching the Gospel of Faith

“So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” -- Romans 1:15, 16

Every God called preacher has a burning desire within him to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul states in this text that he is indeed “ready” to preach to the Romans. While the world rejects, mocks, ridicules and persecutes those who proclaim and live by the gospel, Paul declares that he is not ashamed of it. He tells the Corinthian believers, “Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!” In our sermon for this edition we examine how this text as well as others fit into the principle that “The just shall live by faith.”

Living By Faith

by Evangelist Van Billingsley

*“I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but **the just shall live by his faith.**” -- Habakkuk 2:1-4*

The statement taken from this text, “The just shall live by faith,” is quoted three times in the New Testament. This text, like the quotes in the New Testament, speak of the life on this earth awaiting the coming of the Lord. It is by that hope and expectation of what lies ahead that we can press forward putting our faith and trust in our God. The quotations in the New Testament settle any doubt that this is not just an Old Testament principle.

This is a Bible truth for all times upon this earth. One distinction worth noting is the omission of the word “his” in the New Testament passages. If there is any meaning to this variation at all, I believe it to be this: As a New
-- continued on page 3

Inside This Edition. . .

- Opening Commentary, cover
Preaching the Gospel of Faith
- Featured Sermon, cover, p. 3 & 4
Living by Faith
- News From the Editor's Desk, p. 2

Our Ministry News. . .



It's been about a year since we first announced the transition in our ministry and about eight months since we officially began our deputation for the new direction the Lord is sending us. As anyone

who has been down this road would know, deputation can be discouraging. After eight months of listening to pastors explain that they are just trying not to drop any more missionaries and the few who are able to hear from new missionaries saying they already have their schedules filled for the next year, you might think missions (or at least new works) have been shut down in our churches across America. I know better than that. God is not broke! The body of Christ is not in recession and the cattle of a thousand hills are not in need of a bailout!

It is for this reason I have chosen the topic of faith for this edition. If I focused on the sight of what I am told by most pastors I have contacted and the results from the churches where I have presented my ministry, I may be inclined to quit, but we walk by faith, not by sight. It is in times like these that we must be sure to not lean on our own understanding, but trust in the Lord with all our heart.

It is true that many of the churches I have been in are more of a candidate for my help as a missionary evangelist than they are for support; but this is testimony of the need for this ministry. If our struggling churches and church planters do not receive help and our

established churches continue to decline, America's ability to send missionaries abroad and even win our own people will be in dire trouble.

As for our status in support and preparation, let me give you a brief update. Of course we have informed you that we are raising funds to get a tent, a trailer for the tent and a vehicle to live in and pull the tent. We will be partnering with the Paul Redmond family during much of the year to hold tent meetings with church planters across the country for which we must have support to do. To this point, we have found very few who have been willing to partner with us in financial support. We trust God to provide in His timing. Since our support is not yet adequate to pay the monthly bills, I have not been able to put much aside for the vehicle needed. We sold the bus used in our previous mission church and those funds have been set aside along with another \$200 given by different individuals where we've presented the ministry. This appears to be half, or even less, than what will be required. I've made a few offers on one suitable vehicle, but we apparently just do not have enough.

Please pray that these needs will soon be met. Also pray for open doors for our deputation and for our evangelism. Without sufficient support at this point, the only other income I have is love offerings from meetings. Most of my meetings presently have been limited to deputation trips.

A Servant of Christ,
Evangelist Van Billingsley

Our Support Needs:

Monthly Support

Our monthly support is divided into three stages: (#1 not yet reached!)

1. *Required amount to survive while doing full-time ministry and deputation.*
2. *Amount to begin traveling with tent ministry.*
3. *Full support*

Small Bus / Motorhome Tent and Trailer

(...continued from cover) **Living by Faith**

Testament Christian, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us to increase our faith, to build our faith, and to strengthen our faith. Without the indwelling Spirit, the Old Testament saint relied on "his faith."

I see a different focus in each of the New Testament quotes of this principle. Although all three points could be made from any one of these passages, I will take one for each account.

Following the verses in our opening commentary of this newsletter, we find the first quotation from our text as Paul writes to the Romans, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, *The just shall live by faith*" (Romans 1:17). In this passage, he is talking about preaching the gospel. This speaks to me about the ministry and tells me **Our Ministry** must be by faith. It is by faith that he is ready to preach. It is his faith that causes him to not be ashamed just as he explained in chapter five, "Hope maketh not ashamed." It is his faith in the very power of God that his ministry is based upon. He speaks of the necessity of ministry as he states, "The righteousness of God [is] revealed from faith to faith." It is by faith that we trust in Christ and then our ministry of faith is to draw others to faith in Christ, thus passing our faith on to others.

As Paul writes to the Galatians concerning law and grace, we find the second quotation of this principle:

"Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall

all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Galatians 3:6-14).

In dealing with salvation, we see that **Our Message** must be by faith. Not just that we deliver it by faith, but that the message itself be that salvation is by faith. Abraham is given for example. His faith was counted for righteousness. Some have struggled with James' words as he compares faith and works using this same example of Abraham:

"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2:20-24).

Both passages teach that Abraham's faith was imputed or accounted to him for righteousness. James teaches that

-- continued on back

IFB Sermons.com
Independent Fundamental Baptist Sermons



(...continued from p.3) **Living by Faith**
 works will be the evidence of the faith within. When James implied Abraham was justified by works when he offered Isaac on the altar, we must understand one thing; Abraham did not sacrifice Isaac. He did not perform that physical work. It was the work in his heart of willingness, because he believed God, that brought justification. Paul tells the Galatians that we are not justified by the law but by faith, and our message must be the same.

The final quotation really embraces more of the passage from Habakkuk. It is found where the writer, who I believe is Paul, writes to the Hebrew people:

“For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul” (Hebrews 10:34-39).

This passage is truly the New Testament version of the Old Testament passage. It speaks of how we are to conduct ourselves as we await His return. In this, I see that **Our Methods** must be by faith. Faith is not just something we are to use when we need it. It is not just something we are to express when at church. It is not just something to fall back on when things get tough. It is what we are to live by! The just shall live by faith. Paul speaks of patience while doing the will of God; that we have faith in His promises. He speaks of confidence and an enduring substance. As we continue through the chapter break, we find the definition of faith: *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”* (Hebrews 11:1). There is a substance to true faith; an enduring substance. It is what keeps a child of God going forward when without it we could not continue. When all others would quit, he who lives by faith can go on. It is the evidence of things not seen. When others do not see what keeps us going and we do not even see what we desire to see, there lies evidence that an unseen God is in control. That evidence is faith. Paul said to the Corinthians, *“For we walk by faith, not by sight”* (2 Corinthians 5:7). When it looks like there is no way, there is faith. The Just shall live by faith. --VB

Evangelist Van Billingsley

proclaiming

The Story of Jesus

-- A Missionary to our Homeland --

(334)644-4913 • (706)585-2026

1906 South First Avenue, Lanett, Alabama 36863

Working out of

Oakside Baptist Church - LaGrange, Georgia

Independent

Fundamental

KJV

vanb@mindspring.com

www.sojministries.com

