

Clarksville Church of Christ
 407 W Lewis & Clark Pkwy
 Clarksville, IN 47129-1649
 (812) 944-2305
www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org

Sundays
 Bible Study..... 9:30 AM
 Worship.....10:30 AM
 Worship.....6:00 PM

Wednesdays
 Bible Study.....7:30 PM

Elders
 Stephen W. Nale.....812-948-9917
 Allen L. Morris.....812-967-4536

Deacons
 Jeffrey B. Hunt.....502-931-5766
 Elbert Metcalf.....812-246-5938
 Rondal O. Thompson Jr....812-944-8295
 Mark Maudlin.....502-523-0479

Editor
 Stephen W. Nale.....502-727-7559

Goals For 2022
 Theme
Be Ye Imitators of Christ
Attendance: Sunday Bible Study: 40:
Sunday AM: 50
Sunday PM: 40: Wednesday Bible Study: 30

Giving: Meet Our Yearly Budget

Invitations: 130

Every Member Committed To Daily Bible Reading

Every Member Committed To Daily Prayer

Every Member Committed To Be At Every Service

Support the Work in Vincennes, Indiana
Hold A Men's Training Class

Hold One Gospel Meeting

-Like us on Facebook-View us on YouTube at Clarksvillechurch

Gary Henry
is preaching today

We are now in week #6 of our Daily Bible Reading.

Prayer List
 Lynn Maudlin, Mark Maudlin
 Sharon Nale, Polly Ward
 Les & Novema Dunn
 Debby Spears (Roseann's sis)
 Sharon Thompson, Kay Thompson
 The Wards & Beth McFarland
 Brooke Thomas, Pam Caudill
 Kahl/Lewellen family on recent passing of Dale Kahl

THIS MONTH: Pleased God

Matt. 3:17; 1 Thess. 4:1

Who Have You Invited To Services This week?

Lord's Supper Reading
 Mark 14:17-25

Scripture Reading
 AM: Matt. 3:13-17
 PM: Phil 3:8-9

Encouragement Tally
 Invites this month: 0
 Invites last month: 62
 Visitors YTD: 0

Place Stamp Here

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The Clarksville Beacon

www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org

Our Theme for 2022...
"Being Imitators of Christ"
 1 Cor. 11:1
 Clarksville Church of Christ
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 Clarksville, IN 47129

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THE PRIORITY OF PLEASING OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Welcome!
 If you're visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome and we want you to feel like our honored guest! We also want you to know that all we're interested in here at the Clarksville Church of Christ is the Truth. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The truth He's talking about is God's word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them by thy truth, Thy word is truth." John 17:17. Therefore we hope you'll appreciate that we'll give you book, chapter and verse from the Bible, the word of God, for everything that we say or do here today, so that everything that we do may bring glory unto God, I Pet. 4:11.

Introduction

When we study the life of Christ, we are struck by the priority that He gave to doing the Father's will - **Mt. 26:39**.

Clearly, Jesus pleased His Father - **Mt. 3:17**.
 But this was no accident — He determined to please His Father. In every decision, this was His choice.

Pleasing Ourselves

It is not inherently wrong to do something that is pleasing to us — we will hardly know how to "love your neighbor as yourself" (**Mt. 19:19**) if we do not know how to love ourselves. Cf. **Mt. 7:12**.

But obviously, there are higher priorities in life than merely doing what is easy or pleasing to ourselves.

PLEASING OTHER PEOPLE

Pleasing others should be a higher goal than pleasing ourselves - **Rom. 15:2,3**.

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (**Phil. 2:3,4**).

PLEASING GOD

In every decision, our *highest question* must always be: "What would please my Heavenly Father?" Cf. **2 Tim. 2:3,4**.

And even in choosing between good, better, and best, we should be asking what would please Him the *most*.

It is important to recognize that God can be pleased - **Hb. 11:5**. Cf. **Hb. 13:16**.

But it is equally important to understand that we may do so only by faith - **Hb. 11:6**.

Conclusion

If our aim is to imitate Christ (**1 Jn. 2:6**), our "mission" in life must closely correspond to His - **Jn. 6:38**. We please God only by the strength which He supplies (**Phil. 2:13; 1 Pt. 4:11**), but we must make pleasing Him our *aim*, our *deliberate intention* in all that we do - **2 Cor. 5:9**. Cf. **Phil. 1:20**. In our many moments of choice, may we make the same choice that Joseph (**Gen. 39:9**) and Moses (**Hb. 11:25**) made.

TRUSTING OUR FATHER

Introduction

Text: **Phil. 3:8,9.**

FAITH, THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE GOSPEL

Faith is not the only thing involved in our response to the gospel, but it has an importance that is unique to it alone - **Jn. 3:16; Rom. 1:16,17.** The righteousness made possible by the gospel is called the “righteousness which is from God by faith” (**Phil. 3:8,9**). To say the very least, faith in Jesus Christ is *required* — it is not optional. Cf. **Jn. 8:24.** But without faith, nothing else in our obedience to God would be effective - **Hb. 11:6.**

WHAT IS FAITH?

Many misconceptions about faith are popular. Faith only, apart from any obedience. Cf. **Mt. 7:21.** Faith as mere “belief.” Wishful thinking, blind faith. In the Scriptures, there are three primary ingredients in faith. **Credence** - **Jn. 8:24; Rom. 10:9,10.** **Confidence** - **2 Tim. 1:12.** In obeying the gospel, we commit (entrust) *ourselves* to Christ. Cf. **2 Cor. 8:5; 1 Pt. 4:19.** **Constancy** - **2 Tim. 4:7.**

Abraham is the great example of faith - **Hb. 11:8-18.** Cf. **Gal. 3:6-9.** Because he believed, Abraham obeyed. At God’s bidding, he risked everything he had in this world *because he trusted God’s promise.* Cf. **Jas. 2:22,23.** “The pith, the essence of faith lies in this — a casting of oneself on the promise” (Charles Spurgeon).

The basic element in faith is “trust” - **2 Cor. 1:8-10.** Cf. **2 Cor. 3:4,5; 1 Tim. 4:10.** Our tendency to self-sufficiency and self-rule is deeply rooted and long-standing. Cf. **Jer. 2:13.** The problem began in the Garden of Eden - **Gen. 3:1-5.** Sin always results from *forsaking the trust we were meant to have in God.* If we reject the “obedience of faith” (**Rom. 1:5**), there is no salvation for us. We must dispense with the doubts about God and His law that started us down the path of disobedience in the first place. If the problem of sin is going to be fixed, *trust in God will have to be restored.* Faith means not only believing in God’s *existence*, but also in His *goodness* - **Hb. 11:6.**

Faith means trusting that God is good, His commands are always going to be better than our will, and in the end He is waiting for us in heaven *if we will adhere to His plan for our redemption.* When immediate circumstances seem to cast doubt on God’s promises, trust will keep us faithful to our Father. Cf. **Gal. 6:9.** So even if we’re Christians, we need to ask ourselves: *in what is our ultimate trust?* Cf. **Lk. 18:9; 1 Tim. 6:17.**

“THE “OBEDIENCE OF FAITH”

“Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name” (**Rom. 1:5**; cf. **16:26**). Cf. “the obedience of faith” (ESV). We need to see the *vital link between faith and obedience* — neither without the other is what God is looking for. Faith without OBEDIENCE will not work - **Lk. 6:46.** Neither will obedience that is not OF FAITH - **Hb. 11:6.** The OBEDIENCE OF FAITH is what the gospel calls for — i.e., obedience that comes from genuine *trust* in God. Faith without obedience is useless, but so is obedience without faith. What’s in our hearts and what’s in our actions must match up.

Conclusion

To say that faith has a special importance does not mean: Obedience is not necessary - **Jas. 2:26.** Baptism is not essential — it is in baptism that we die with Christ, as an act of faith - **Col. 2:12.** Faith, however, does mean that beginning with our initial obedience to the gospel, we follow God’s will for the rest of our lives *because we trust Him.* Think about WHY trust is so important. What it would mean if we “came back to God” but we refused to accept anything about His will that didn’t seem “safe” or “reasonable” to us?

In our initial obedience to the gospel.

In our lives as Christians. So in all honesty, *what is the quality of your own faith right now?*

Gary Henry — WordPoints.com + AreYouaChristian.com

Trusting Our Father

. . . for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Jeremiah 2:13

SIN IS THE RESULT OF FORSAKING THE TRUST WE WERE MEANT TO HAVE IN GOD. We see it first in the Garden of Eden, where as soon as Adam and Eve’s confidence in God’s goodness had been broken, they were willing to violate His will to get what they wanted (Genesis 3:1-6). Since then, the problem of sin has always been the same, and we’re all guilty of it. Failing to trust that God’s way is best, we’ve rebelled and committed treachery to get satisfactions we think are better than those God’s way would allow.

If a broken trust in God is the root of sin, it makes sense that for the problem of sin to be fixed, trust is going to have to be put back in its rightful place. That is why faith is so important in God’s plan for our restoration to His fellowship through Jesus Christ.

Faith begins with simple belief, an acceptance of the factual truth about God. But based on belief, faith also means trusting that God is good, His commands are always going to be better than our will, and in the end He is waiting for us in heaven *if we will adhere to His plan for our redemption.* When our immediate circumstances seem to cast doubt on these truths, it is only trust (based on the solid evidence of God’s trustworthiness, especially in Jesus’ resurrection) that will keep us faithful to our Father.

I love Adam Litmer’s definition of trust: “unwavering belief that God’s way is always the right way, without exception . . . and that our lives will always be best lived when lived for His glory.” If we reject the “obedience of faith” (Romans 1:5), there is no salvation for us. We must dispense with the doubts about God and His law that started us down the path of disobedience in the first place.

Abraham is the great example of trust. “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going” (Hebrews 11:8). Because he believed, Abraham obeyed. At God’s bidding, he risked everything he had in this world *because he trusted God’s promise.* And today, we can’t be God’s friends without banking on the promises of God as Abraham did.

The pith, the essence of faith lies in this — a casting oneself on the promise.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon