

May 24th Sunday 2015

Text: Hebrews 10:19-25

Topic: a NEW AND LIVING WAY

We don't need to wait until after we died to draw near to God. We can come unto His presence right now. What we should know is that God is Holy therefore he who wants to draw near must be Holy. For God will certainly judge sin. But we should also know that God is ready to forgive our sins if we come to Him through Christ Jesus. Christ is our righteousness, therefore through faith we have been declared righteous. Christ has freed us from the law of sin and death. We are no more under condemnation (Rom 8:1).

As a result we are made perfect to enter the holy of holies. We have become God's children just as children can go to their earthly father with confidence we believers have a new way and privilege to go to our heavenly father. (Heb. 4:16). The death of Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross has opened up for us a new and true way into God's presence. This way is living because Jesus is living; He is not dead like other religious leaders. That is why He said he is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through Him (John 14:6). Jesus is the door, the bridge between God and man. The bridge sin destroyed is restored through Christ. He who wants to see God must go through this restored bridge but if you want to see Satan, you do not need to do so. You can go anywhere but to God there is no other way or door or bridge sorry!

Lesson: Through faith we have received full rights as children of God therefore we can draw near to God, which is a new way of living.

Prayer: I want to have a sincere heart that has been cleansed and purified; for only pure heart can go to God, help me O Lord.

May 25th Monday 2015

Text: Hebrews 10:23-25

Topic: God never wavers

Even though as children of God we are suppose to keep our words and fulfill our vows to God and man but sometimes we do fail. The writer of Hebrews again and again exhorts us to hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess. That is to stand firm in the faith we profess (Heb 3:14) let us not waver. God never wavers, mans promises may fail, but God's promise is sure. God is faithful to fulfill His word. Therefore since our hope is placed on the sure promises of a faithful God, we have no reason to waver. If anyone begins to waver let's quickly encourage and strengthen such person. Let's spur one another toward love and good deeds, let's make sure that no one among us fall back. Together we are strong but alone we are weak. It is the work of the devil for one to refuse fellowship with the church or fellowship among members. You are weak when you're at home alone to watch TV or film or sleeping. You are a cheap prey to the devil. This is what is happening to the Hebrew believers. They have stopped attending church or fellowship with choir, ZME, Youth etc. let this not happen among us. Only by being part of a church we can encourage one another. While jumping from one fellowship or church to another is another trap the devil can catch you easily. Stick to a believing

church refuse to be a harlot. Though in war or persecution times we may not have proper fellowship but we can meet underground and encourage one another. But we do not leave church because of sin or bad deeds we need God's word to help us. If we are with God, He will help us and encourage us.

Lesson: Don't be discouraged from the brethren in fellowship and be of same mind for you do not know when Christ will return. Let's remain firm in faith until Christ return.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to stand firm to remain in you until you come.

May 26th Tuesday, 2015

Text: Hebrews 10:26-31

Topic: Sin committed knowingly

If we deliberately keep on sinning Christ's sacrifice is no longer of any benefit to us. No sacrifice for sins is left (v.26) when we keep on sinning in this way without repentance we trample the son of God under foot. We treat as unholy the blood of the covenant. We despise His sacrifice for us. We insult the Holy spirit of grace through whom we have received all the blessings of Christ (Mark 3:29) if we do all these we have infact completely given up our faith in Christ, if we give up our faith our salvation is lost. The will of God to save us from death has been rejected and so you have sided with the enemy of God, the devil. He who does this never have faith to begin with (1John 3:6). The sin we are talking about is not same with the sin we fall in and repent of from time to time (1 John 1:9) instead those sins which we continue doing deliberately without repentance (Heb 6:4-6). The person who sins this way has no faith. In Old Testament, those who reject the law received death sentence (Deut. 17:2-7). Their physical bodies were put to death.

But how much more severe will be the punishment of those who rejected Christ after having the knowledge of the truth or accepting Christ and rejected. We shall receive not only physical death but also spiritual death for eternity neglecting Christ will expose us to complete lost forever that is a huge lost. (Deut 32:35-36). This is to say deliberate sinning is dangerous game in our life. We should be aware that judgment is sure where believers will be separated from non-believers or false believers.

Lesson: It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God by rejecting Jesus. This means rejecting the mercy of God which is the second death.

Prayer: My Lord Jesus, I am pleading with you to help me not to doubt you nor leave you even a second in my life.

May 27th Wednesday 2015

Text: Hebrews 10:32-39

Topic: Call to Persevere

When we first become Christians, we are usually filled with enthusiasm, zeal and courage. If trouble comes because of our faith, we are ready to bear it with joy. We happily stand our ground in the great contest with Satan. (Matt 5:11-12, Acts 5:4). The Hebrews are the same with us. But they have been persecuted and insulted publicly. They stood firm and stood their ground. They did not run from it (I Cor. 11:26). In the New Testament times prisoners are starved to death, and some of them were frequently thrown into jail, they remembered Matt. 25:14-40. Some of them lost their lands, properties and possessions just as our brothers and sisters are suffering from Boko

Haram, they lost their family inheritance yet they joyful accepted these loss because they know they had a better and lasting possession in heaven (Rom 8:18, 2 Cor. 4:17-18).

As it persists, their zeal began to cool down due to much and continued suffering. The desire for their possession started crimping in and the love to suffer for Christ is fading. This is true situation in this age of Boko Haram and Islamic suppression. Our zeal of love in trial and our love for Jesus grow cold. Let us listen to the word of Jesus “you have persevered and endured hardship for my name and have forsaken your first love, remember the height you have fallen! Repent And do the things you did at first if you do not repent and will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place (Rev 2:3-5) we shall not draw back, but show courage so that our lamp will not be thrown. God has promised reward we must persevere we must continue to do the will of God not man, and persevere to the end. We cannot lose this reward for earthly things It is too precious.

Lesson: Habakkuk 2:3-4. He who is coming Christ will not delay, 2 Peter 3:8-9 remain firm no matter what they do.

Prayer: O Lord, help us to be ready for your coming. Amen

Prayer: Lord Jesus give me the grace to remain firm, I can't afford to give up. Amen.

May 28th Thursday 2015

Text: Hebrews 11:1-16

Topic: Men of Faith and Lesson

People have faith in two things, things we hope for, (future) and things we do not see. The main invisible thing that people put faith in is God Himself and the main things we hope for is the fulfillment of God's promise. If we see thing with our eyes we are sure of it. The proverbs, "seeing is believing" in the same way through faith we can be sure that something can be true even though we cannot see it. It is same with future promises in which we can believe that it will, come to fulfillment. It is good to have our faith in things invisible. The proof of true faith is the fruit that is good works and obedience. If we say we have faith in God we must do what he says.

All the listed things in the passage show proof of their faith by their actions. Faith without works is dead, faith or false faith, says James (James 2:14, 17, 20-24). We cannot claim to have faith in Jesus and we still go for other forms of worship you cannot say you are a child of God and you will be found in the mosque or in herbalist house or shrines for power. That is faith without work. The passages present each man with his position in history and how they prove their worth through obeying God's command. Through these men God's purpose for Israel was fulfilled, because they sought God's heavenly city and God was not ashamed to be called their God. For God says "Those who honour me, I will honour them (1 Sam. 2:30) by believing God, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob honoured God and God honoured them. By calling Himself the God of Abraham, God of Isaac and God of Jacob (Exo. 3:6) what higher honour can any man have more than that?

Lesson: Those that sought after God's country which is heaven will not be ashamed of calling on their God and obeying the laws of their God.

Prayer: O Lord Jesus, help me not to be ashamed of you at any time in my life.
Amen.

May 29th Friday 2015

Text: Hebrews 11:17-40

Topic:Men of faith – Abraham to Christ

To believe in God's promise is a great thing, but having received a promise and then give it up is greater test of a person's faith. That is what happened to Abraham, to give up his son. Abraham did not question God; he knew that power of God raised the death to life. It was God's responsibility to fulfill the promise made not Abraham or any of the figures mentioned. What is required of Abraham and other men of faith is to obey.

Obedience is the hardest thing with mankind, if we can leave God to lead us in all that we do in this and obey His prompt directions, we will have easy life even in difficulties. For even in life or death God is unchangeable but some time even when God's voice is clear on what we should do or direction we should follow, we harden our hearts and regret later. These men did not do that, they trusted God and obeyed Him, even though none of the Old Testament characters received the greatest promise, the promise of the Saviour. Despite other promise they received they still believe that the ultimate promise will come; God's promise of Salvation to man. They obeyed God at all level.

Lesson: Old Testament men of faith will be made perfect when Christ return. As a believer we should be obedient in all thing of God so that we can receive reward along with the great men of faith.

Prayer: O Lord Jesus help me to have true faith in you and be obedient to the end of time.

May 30th Saturday, 2015

Text: Hebrews 12:1-5

Topic:Jesus the Supreme Example of Faith

Having just learned in chapter 11 of many great heroes of faith let's us follow their example and run with perseverance the race worked out for us. These Old Testament heroes are called witnesses because through their lives they gave witness to their faith. What about you? The life of a follower of Christ is a life a race. In a race all the runners run as fast as they can. Before the race begins they take off all unnecessarily clothing, no one can race wearing blanket or fine clothes or jewelry. To run a race even though we need cloths, they are not needed because they will hinder the runner.

The same way there are many things in our lives which are not wrong in themselves but can hinder us in our spiritual race. We must throw off everything that hinders us in other to run faster and quickly. These hindrances may even be good things but they take time from our services to God. We must examine ourselves to see if there are any such hindrances in our lives. We must all examine our lives to see if there

are any. Remember what might be hindrance in yours may not be others, but sin, on the other hand, always slows every one down. If we want to finish the race, we must throw off the sin that so easily entangles, if not throws off, it will grow larger and soon entangle you, like log of wood. In one way our Christian life is different from race. In a race only one person was but in Christian race all those who run and finishes get the same reward or price which is eternal life. Even though this is true, we should run as if we are the only one that will win (1 Cor. 9:24-26). In this race we are not to look any how but fix our eyes on Jesus. So that we should not be distracted if we spread our eyes on the pleasing thing of this world we will not be able to run in a straight line, but we are bound to miss and run off toward the wrong direction and we may not reach the finishing line. If we fix our eyes on Jesus He is the author and pioneer of our faith. He went before us to heaven. He perfect our faith, He is the supreme example of our faith. He went through all the steps of suffering from the garden o0f Gethsemane to the grace. He was with no one to comfort Him. He was deserted. It seems even God deserted Him (Mark 15:34). He endured the cross, beating, shame and suffering following His foot steps will lead us to the right line. if we endured and persevere to the end, we will also be exalted with Jesus (Heb. 3:14) and will also reign with Him in heaven. Is there any one among us who is growing wary, who is losing heart? Let him or her consider Jesus. When one mediates and reflects on, we will receive strength and the grace to continue. In this shaking times, we can put our faith in Him when all is gone including our body we will find life at the finishing line with Him.

Lesson: To Him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I over come and sat down with my father on his throne (Rev. 3:22) in the same way lets strive and over come we will sit with Him.

Prayer: My Lord and father it is difficult to run but everything is possible with you, help me run right and give me the grace to run and focus to the finishing line with you. Amen.