

FAITH IN CHRIST

I John 5:1-13

Introduction:

- A. What are the needs of the world today?
- B. Some would say peace. This is a noble cause but Jesus said, "I came not to send peace, but a sword."
- C. Some would say prosperity, but what of the rich fool.
- D. Some would say a cure for disease, yet Jesus indicated one might be perfect physically and still be in danger.
- E. What is the greatest need? The greatest need is for men to have a vital faith in Christ. Now let us consider some things about faith in Christ as found here in First John that would make it the greatest world need.

I . BY FAITH IN CHRIST MEN ARE CHANGED .

- A. By it men are born of God.
 - 1. New birth a necessity - "except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God."
 - 2. Man is not born again out of the barren womb of good works, or baptism, or church membership.
 - a. "For by grace...."
 - 3. Faith makes new birth possible. Remember Sarah laughed when God told her she was to bear a son in old age. God replied, "Is any thing too hard for the Lord."
 - a. Sarah came to believe by faith what God had said.

(1) Heb. 11:11

"Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised."

b. It matters not what your life has been, you can experience the new birth by faith.

4. This faith must be more than a mental assent.

a. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God."

B. Men born of God are changed.

I John 5:1-3

"And everyone that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous"

1. Paul speaks of changed physical body at second coming of Christ. "changed in a moment in the twinkling of an eye." So it is with those who by faith trust Christ.

a. II Cor. 5:17

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

2. Proof of the change is in the actions of the new man toward the brethren.

a. Love of brethren = "And every one that loveth him that begat, loveth him also that is begotten of him...we know that we have passed from death unto life..."

(1) Rejoice with them.

(2) Weep with them.

(3) We know we love the brethren when we keep God's commandments. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

3. Proof of a change, that we now love God, is found in keeping God's commandments, "For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments."

a. Jesus summed up the commandments.

(1) Matthew 22:37-40.

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

(1) Christian that loves God there can be no doubt of his loyalty.

(2) Christian that loves his neighbor will tell him of the Saviour, will give that others might hear, will live that others might see Jesus.

b. "And his commandments are not grievous."

If it is a burden for you to do the things of God, do some soul searching.

c. Love longs to obey.

3. Surely if all the things just said are true then men of faith are in great need.

I I . BY FAITH MEN OVERCOME THE WORLD. vs. 3, 4

A. What is the world that John is talking about?

1. It is not just the immoral or obscene.

2. It is not just refraining from cursing, drinking, gambling, or immoral conduct.

3. It would also include:

a. Selfishness.

b. Coveting.

c. Pride.

d. Temper tantrums.

e. Gossip.

4. John sums it up.

I John 2:16.

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

5. Satan is most subtle and he tempts each of us in our on particular sphere where we are the weakest. This is the world that John speaks of.

B. Man cannot overcome the world of himself.

1. Illustrated by the teaching of Jesus concerning self reformation in 12th chapter of Matthew.

C. Man cannot overcome the world by withdrawing from it as a monk. For it is out of the heart of man that evil has its source and not from the world about him.

D. How to overcome.

1. I John 5:3-4.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

2. Paul - "I can do all things."

3. Moses - "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

4. Faith - A complete trust and reliance on Christ.

5. Surely if faith in Christ means so much, and can do so much for man, is it not a great need of the world. If men everywhere had this faith would it not cure a great many ills of this old world?

6. Where do you stand in the matter of faith in Christ?