

“THE PRIME DIRECTIVE”

or “THE SALT PRINCIPLE”

TEXT: Hebrews 11:6

THESIS: To show the only means of pleasing God is thru the faith principle.

INTRO: **A.** “THE PRIME DIRECTIVE” in God’s universe for God’s creatures is to please God. How to please Him is no mystery; He tells us. The method to please Him is simple: faith. The act of pleasing Him is difficult.

B. Man is a sensual being, i.e., he acts based on his 5 senses. He naturally lives by sight. God wants him to walk by faith, the “6th Sense.” He cannot do so with out supernatural help. 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:8-9

C. If faith is “THE PRIME DIRECTIVE” then the greatest sin is living with out faith. You may strive earnestly, live excellently, and work unceasingly, but with out faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God! Spurgeon said it is a “double impossibility” – for an “unbelieving man to please God, and for God to be pleased with an unbelieving man.” I call this “THE SALT PRINCIPLE.” According to Lev.2:13b all sacrifices in the OLD TESTAMENT had to be mingled with salt. Thus today, everything we do must be mingled with faith, or we cannot please God. (“...with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.”)

I. THE GREAT IMPOSSIBILITY: (PLEASING GOD APART FROM FAITH IN HIM)

A. A Faith That Reckons (to depend, rely on):

1. It trusts God’s Word – it reckons on what God says. Rom.10:13

ILLUS: Cain and Abel both brought sacrifices that were of approximately the same value. But God only accepted Abel’s, because it was offered in faith, and rejected Cain’s because it was offered in presumption.

- a. Faith is based upon hearing (knowledge); man must know what is expected.
- b. Faith speaks of assent (agreement); man must believe God what God says.
- c. Faith demands grasping (laying hold upon); man must demonstrate or prove His faith by acting upon what he believes.

2. It trusts in God – it reckons on God’s Person:

- a. It sees “Him Who is invisible...” 11:27
- b. It reckons that the visible is temporary and the invisible is permanent.

ILLUS: cf.11:24-27 That is exactly what Moses did when he left Egypt. He left the visible riches, pleasures, palace, servants, luxury, etc., because He, with eyes of faith saw God Who was invisible. He traded the temporary for the permanent. He traded the pleasures of sin for the riches of Christ. v.25,26

The invisible world is real to the man of faith and motivates his life and lifestyle. God loves saints who walk in the dark (Is. 50:10), and trust Him to get them through the darkness (Micah 7:8).

Is. 50:10

Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of His servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.

Micah 7:8

Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me.

ILLUS: It is possible to please me with many things: prime rib, pierogies, strawberries, Dove bars, Lemon meringue pie, cherry pie, raisin pie, apple pie, fishing, flowers, books, etc., but *only one thing pleases God – FAITH!* The Bible declares that “whatsoever is not of faith, is sin! Sin like adultery is sin, fornication is sin, lying is sin, getting others to lie is sin. (Clinton) Thus the preacher who doesn’t depend upon Him is sinning, the usher, the S.S. teacher, the choir, the special music, the deacon, the bus worker, the secretary, the housewife, the husband, the children who do not depend upon Him are sinning as well!

Someone says, so-and-so went into “deep sin.” (What is shallow sin?) You ask “what did he (she) do?” Instead of “adultery,” “robbery” you say, “He drove to work with out depending on God!” or “She did her dishes with out depending on God.” or “He led the choir with out depending on God.” or “He preached with out dep. on God!”

II. THE GREAT IMPERATIVE: (*BELIEVING IN HIM and TRUSTING HIM*)

A. A Faith That Rests: (It quits working)

1. Every person must “*come to God...* (Saving faith)

ILLUS: It doesn’t say “come to *it*” but to “*Him*”! It is not enough to postulate or believe in a God. Einstein said, “Certainly there is a God. Any man who doesn’t believe in a cosmic force is a fool, but we could never know Him.” Brilliant as he was, Einstein was wrong - and knows it now!

2. Every person must abandon “God substitutes” and come to Him! (Personal faith.

ILLUS: Paul came to HIM one day and the personal encounter altered his life forever. In Phil. 3:4-6, Paul says he abandoned Ritual (“circumcision”), Race (“stock of Israel”) Royalty (“tribe of Benjamin” – Saul), Refinement (“Hebrew of the Hebrews”), Religion (“Pharisee”), Reputation (“persecuting the church”), and self Righteousness (“blameless”), for HIM! (“the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord”)!

It’s not enough to know about God, you need to KNOW GOD!

3. Every person must believe that He is: (Living Faith)
 - a. Logic appeals to the head.
 - b. Faith appeals to the heart.

ILLUS: We can’t know God by sight (He is invisible). We can’t know Him by logic or reason. God devoted 2 chapters of His Word to prove to Job that he couldn’t even figure out the simple operations of nature: wind, rain, snow, animals, etc., with his finite brain, much less figure out the God who created

and controls these things. Scientific evidence is circumstantial, at best and unrepeatable. History and creation are past events and are unrepeatable. You can't put love, anger, hate, justice, etc. in a test tube but no one argues they are not real. Science merely provides evidence. The writer of Hebrews in his book of faith, nonetheless uses a scientific argument: "For every house is built by some man; but he that built all things is God." (Cause and effect)

1. Every person must believe in the God of the Bible: (Scripture Faith)

QUOTE: Spurgeon: "...you must believe that there is a God, and you must believe that God is what He says He is. Otherwise, if you make God to be other than He says He is, you make God to be an idol, your god is an imaginary being. You must accept God as He is revealed in Scripture."

B. A Faith That Risks: (believe that He is a rewarder)

QUOTE: MacArthur: "Believing that God exists is the first step *toward* faith. Believing that He rewards those who trust in Him is the first step *of* faith!"

1. It risks eternity on trusting God.(Salvation is the reward God gives for faith)
2. It risks acting on what God says is best for us.
3. It risks believing that faith in Him will be rewarded.

ILLUS: When Abraham and Isaac walked up Mt. Moriah that dreary morning, faith' that trusted in God's reward motivated Abraham to place his only son on the altar and raise the knife above his head, in response to God's command.

There is a strange silence between 2 verses in Heb. 11 (29,30). 40 years span these 2 verses, from the crossing of the Red Sea to the victory at Jericho. 25 chapters of Exodus, 27 of Leviticus, 36 of Numbers, 34 of Deut. and 5 chapters of Josh. record the events of those 40 years; yet not one event is mentioned as being "by faith." What was wrong? They were walking by flesh instead of faith. Idolatry, lust, envy, presumption, complaining, murmuring, etc. The same things which will rob believers today of rewards and cause them to suffer loss at the J.S. of Christ. What an indictment.

CONCL: If the Bible said preaching a great message pleased Him, or singing beautifully, or being smart or handsome or beautiful or a genius pleased Him, most or all of us here could never please Him. But we can all exercise saving faith ("he that cometh to God") and living faith ("that He is a rewarder"), every day in simple tasks.

ILLUS: Jesus called the Centurions faith in Him "great faith." What did he do? He simply believed what Jesus said! He simply exercised faith in the Person of Christ, He believed Who He was! You too can do that. Someone said: "simple souls find their way to heaven while others are fumbling for the (door)." Quit trusting in yourself or anything or anyone else. You are full of sin, and will never find any remedy in the disease. Come to Christ. Believe in Him! Trust in Him! Walk by faith!