

**TEACHING GOAL**

To study the nature of the Christian life seen as a life of Faith and Repentance.

**DOCTRINAL STANDARDS**

- Q. What is faith in Jesus Christ?
- A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the gospel.
- Q. What is repentance unto life?
- A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of and endeavor after, new obedience.

S.C. 86, 87; L.C. 72, 76; W.C. of F. XI, XV; Savoy 11, 15; Young 56, 57

**SCRIPTURAL BASIS**

**Study Passage:** Hebrews 11

**Support Passages:** Isaiah 43:1-3; Matthew 10:34-39; Romans 8:18-39; Revelation 2:1-3:22

**BIBLE STORY**

II Corinthians 11:23-28; Examples of Christian living from the life of Paul.

**MEMORY ASSIGNMENT**

"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted," (2 Timothy 3:12, ESV)

**APPLICATION**

The life of faith and repentance is a very difficult thing. On the one hand there is the spiritual struggle with evil and on the other there is persecution. We must therefore count the cost of discipleship and set our affections on things above if we are to endure to the end.

## SUMMARY

The Christian life, though it is filled with many exciting experiences involves a constant walk of faith and struggle against sin. In previous lessons we have studied the nature of faith and repentance and the origin of these graces in the Christian. Now we must be reminded again of the consequences of faith and repentance in our lives. Paul writes, "Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure."<sup>1</sup> You may say that these things came to Paul because he was an apostle and he experienced things that the average person never does. However, Paul notes that all Christians, those who live godly lives, will suffer persecution.

It is therefore typical of the Christian life that it is difficult. Not **if** you pass through the waters will I be with you but "**when** you pass through the waters, I will be with you".<sup>2</sup> It was a foregone conclusion that God's people would experience many problems in their lives. Christ came to this earth for a number of reasons but peace in the life of the Christian was not one of them. He said, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword".<sup>3</sup> To many, faith in Christ means strife in the home. To others it means a broken marriage, typical of people converted from Islam.<sup>4</sup> It may mean that our property is seized by the state or that we are made a public spectacle.<sup>5</sup> There may be scourging, mocking, chains or imprisonment.<sup>6</sup> But if we are to be disciples of Christ we must be willing to take up His cross; we must be willing to endure tribulation for His sake.

John writes to the seven churches of Asia Minor to the effect that they will suffer persecution but to be saved they must endure to the end. In my view John is writing to these churches about sufferings that they will experience during the events that led up to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD. He wrote to these churches to encourage them and to prepare them for what they were soon to face. He wrote the book of Revelation so that they would know that, "-- in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."<sup>7</sup> Seven times he speaks to those who overcome. The one who overcomes will be granted to eat of the tree of life, he will not be hurt by the second death,

he will be given hidden manna, he will be given authority over the nations, he will be clothed in white garments and represented by Christ before God the Father, he will be made a pillar in the temple of God, and he will be granted to sit with Christ on His throne. All of this presupposes a life of difficulty as a Christian.

So we have been forewarned of the ramifications of faith in Christ and repentance unto life. We have been forewarned of the spiritual and physical problems we will have to face. However, we must rest assured in Christ because God loves His people and they will not be eternally hurt. Nothing can separate us from the love of God and at the end of all this is a crown of life. Let us therefore be faithful unto death. Let our repentance be genuine and lead us into fruitful, productive lives for the glory of Christ and the good of His kingdom.

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<sup>1</sup> II Corinthians 11:24-27, ESV

<sup>2</sup> Isaiah 43:2

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 10:34

<sup>4</sup> I Corinthians 7:13-15

<sup>5</sup> Hebrews 10:33-34

<sup>6</sup> Hebrews 11:36

<sup>7</sup> Romans 8:37,ESV