

1:5-8 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

The Ecumenical Movement:

Notice God says that all nations are to be obedient to the faith. You see how one verse of scripture destroys the ecumenical movement. God never told you to unite with people that don't believe in Jesus Christ and obey his words and keep his doctrine. He told you to separate from such people. There is only one way, one truth, and one life.

Uniting at the expense of sound doctrine is Satanic and ushers in the 3.5 year rule and reign of the Antichrist (Make a reference to the "Paul's Warnings" study). Over 60% of Paul's warnings to the church has to do with doctrinal issues. Talk about Paul's life a pattern to the church and how when he COMPROMISED FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH that brought him to bondage and led him to Rome where he died.

A one world religion (Revelation 17-18, Nahum 3, Isaiah 47, 2 Thessalonians 2), one world government (Revelation 13, Daniel 2 and 7) headed up by Rome (Revelation 17:18).

Since uniting at the expense of truth and sound doctrine is wrong, the Bible tells us how to deal with false teachers and prophets.

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Titus 3:9-11 But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

He didn't say argue with them, he didn't say have a dialogue with them, he definitely did not say to join with them and compromise for them, he said to avoid them and reject them. How about that for the sweet Spirit of Christ? Just a little taste of this Spirit, here is what Paul said about those that had corrupt doctrine and were deceiving people: he called them beasts and said those people shall bear their judgment and Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost wished they were cut off, which means to die (1 Corinthians 15:29-34, Galatians 5:7-12). That is why doctrine is important because souls are at stake and Christians rewards are at stake at the judgment seat of Christ. Here are some verses that speak of the importance of doctrine (1 Timothy 4:16, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Titus 2:1-8)

Alright now what is “the faith” that is talked about in this passage? Some would have you believe (these are your ‘high-church’ folk) that these are traditions of the Apostles that contradict the writing of the Apostles (i.e. New Testament). That’s a silly thing to believe. Imagine Peter, Paul, and James all agreeing in writing that salvation is by grace (Acts 15) and then they go around and taught that you are saved by faith + works. That’s what you must believe if you are a high-churcher. You see how crazy that is? I’m not going to spend time on what this phrase is not but what it is. So what is “the faith?”

“The faith” is the body of doctrines that were taught by the Apostles and are to be believed and adhered to. It also refers to living godly and being a doer of the word and not just a hearer only.

The first time this phrase appears in Scripture is in Acts 3:16. Peter says his name through faith in his name healed the man; yea, the faith which is by him has given him a complete healing. So it is connected with Jesus Christ obviously. The faith is by Jesus Christ. Acts 6:7 states “the faith” is connected with the word of God and a great company of priests were obedient to the faith. It is connected with hearing the word of God again in Acts 13:8 and we read in that chapter that Paul preached that through Jesus Christ is forgiveness of sins and all those that believe are justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law (Acts 13:38-39). In Acts 14:22, it is connected to the gospel Paul was preaching (1 Corinthians 15) and they were exhorted to continue in the faith. In Acts 16:5 the churches are said to be established in the faith. In Acts 24:24 it is referred to as the faith in Christ. In Galatians 1:23 Paul was preaching the faith that he once was destroyed. That is the belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the king of Israel who died on the cross and rose again from the dead.

Then in Galatians 2:16 we are told we are justified by the faith of Christ. That means the righteousness, faith, and life of Christ is what makes us just in the sight of God, not anything we do. Because when we believe on Christ, his righteousness (his faith) is imputed unto us, and our sins are imputed unto him! Thank you Lord!

We are told in Galatians 3:23-29 the faith has to do with being justified by faith alone and that we are no longer under the law and are now children of God!

In Ephesians 4:13-14 we are told “the faith” relates to doctrinal matters. Therefore the faith has to do with what God commands us and requires us to believe. Notice in this passage, there will be all kinds of false doctrines out there until the rapture of the Church and it will be all sorted out at the judgment seat of Christ.

In Colossians 2:7, the faith has to deal with what was taught by the Apostle Paul.

In 1 Timothy 4:1-5, we are told in the last days some shall depart from the faith. That is, they will depart from the fundamental Christians truths taught to us by the Apostles and adopt instead doctrines of devils (which ironically enough, are doctrines taught by the Roman Catholic Church – don’t get mad at me. I didn’t write 1 Timothy). How about that for hate speech?

In 1 Timothy 5:8 we are told that a person that doesn't live the word has denied the faith and is worse than a Muslim, Buddhist or Hindu. So the faith not only refers to believing certain things, but also doing certain things. Hence the phrase in our text, "obedience to the faith."

In Titus 1:1 the faith is connected with godliness and godly living.

We are to be obedient to things we have just mentioned. We ought to believe what they say and do what they say: we will be held accountable to God for these things.

1:9-13 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

Serving God in spirit, not in the flesh

The apostle Paul states that he serves God with his spirit in the gospel of his Son. Compare this with Romans 7:15-25. Paul says he delights in the law of God after the inward man and serves the law of God with his mind, but with his flesh it is a different story. If you could just get that Christian, you wouldn't doubt your salvation.

The reason why saved people doubt their salvation is not because they never repented of their wickedness and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, and that God raised him from the dead, it's because they have sinned after they were saved or backslid real bad. They think that since they committed horrible sins since they've been saved, they must have never been saved to begin with. That's not true at all! Perhaps the greatest Christian to ever live was the apostle Paul, and he struggled with the flesh and gave into it like we all do at times. He said what I would like to do, I don't do and what I hate, that I do and guess what – Paul didn't loose his salvation! See also Galatians 5:16-25.

As Christians we have a war going on in our body. This war will continue until the day we die or get our new bodies at the resurrection of the church (the rapture). Our spirit that is joined to the Holy Spirit desires and wants to serve God and on the other hand our flesh desires to please itself and disobey God. But here is the great thing: we are no longer in the flesh (Romans 8:7-10). Christ Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and death (Romans 6:18-22, 8:2-4; John 8:30-36; Galatians 5:1). Since you have been saved, Jesus Christ has set you free from the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life (2 Peter 1:3-4). You don't have to serve sin and your flesh anymore! You can now serve God and please him! The power of sin has been broken over your

life (Romans 6:14, Psalm 19:13)! The choice is yours. Choose you this day whom ye will serve! For more on this, see the study called The Old Man vs. The New Man.

Praying for the saints

The apostle Paul prayed for the church without ceasing. He told you elsewhere to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We need to pray for each other. Our most powerful weapon is the word of God, but we also have prayer as another weapon. We ought to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. What should we pray about for them?

Well here is what Paul prayed for and asked for prayer for:

That they would do no evil (2 Corinthians 13:7)

Give thanks for the saints, and that God would give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, that their eyes would be enlightened, that they would know what is the hope of his calling, and the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and the greatness of his power (Ephesians 1:16-20).

Asked for prayer to speak with boldness (Ephesians 6:18-20).

That their love would abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; they would be able to approve things that are excellent, and be SINCERE and without offence till the day of Christ (Philippians 1:9-10).

That they would be filled with the Holy Ghost and bear his fruits (Philippians 1:11).

That God would grant an open door to his preachers of the gospel (Colossians 4:2-3).

That they would stand perfect and complete in all the will of God (Colossians 4:12).

That God would count you worthy of this calling and that you would fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness and that Christ may be glorified in you and ye in him (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12).

Prayer to help perfect what is lacking in your faith (1 Thessalonians 3:10).

To be blameless in body, soul, and spirit until the day of the Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

That God's word would be glorified and have free course (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

Prayer for all men that we might live a quiet peaceable life (1 Timothy 2:1)

*Prayer for the sick (James 5:13-16)

Does your pray life resemble Paul's? Looking at Paul's prayers, he was more concerned about Jesus Christ's desires than his owns.