

FAITH, AS PAUL KNEW IT

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Timothy 1:12**. From Roy H. Enoch (01-01-1995).
- B. Paul is not only a great teacher and dedicated writer, but he is a great example in how to serve God (1Cor. 11:1; 2Th. 3:7-9). Paul is one of the strongest examples in the NT of zeal and dedication to X.
- C. His zeal never wavered and he was always praying for and encouraging others in their work and service.
 - 1. In 2Cor. 11, Paul catalogues some of his sufferings and persecutions that he endured.
 - 2. He did not consider the material loss anything, nor the position of prestige he had persecuting Xians (Phil. 3:7,8).
- D. We want to study some of the characteristics of Paul's faith that we might "follow him as he follows X."
 - 1. Paul proclaimed his faith.
 - 2. X was his creed.
 - 3. Paul accepted all of X's claims.

I. PAUL PROCLAIMED HIS FAITH.

- A. When he was converted he began to preach that Jesus was the Son of God (Ac. 9:20-22). He came to Jerusalem and spoke boldly, even though they tried to kill him (Ac. 9:29).
- B. In our text Paul expresses his faith in X (2Tim. 1:12):
 - 1. It was complete confidence as knowledge: "I know..."
 - 2. It was a personal faith: "...I have believed..."
 - 3. It was convincing in power: "...I am persuaded..." (completely convinced.)

II. CHRIST WAS HIS CREED.

- A. "I know whom I have believed..." - not "what".
 - 1. He did know the doctrine of X and taught it necessary to be saved (1Cor. 15:1-4).
 - 2. But he often summed up the whole of Xianity with a single phrase or term (1Cor. 2:2).
- B. His faith was in a person, not in a system of men.
 - 1. If we trust a person, we will not question, doubt, or reject what he tells us.
 - 2. Those who say that they "don't see any value or sense" in something that Jesus tells us to do are trusting their own judgment more than they are trusting Jesus.
- C. Faith in Jesus is shown by doing what He says (Lk. 6:46; Mt. 7:21; Jn. 15:14).

III. PAUL ACCEPTED ALL OF CHRIST'S CLAIMS.

- A. Jesus claimed to be divine, the Son of God.
 - 1. He claimed equality with God (Jn. 5:18; Phil. 2:5,6).
 - 2. He claimed that judgment was committed to Him (Jn. 5:22).
 - 3. He claimed power to give life (Jn. 5:21).
 - 4. He claimed that He was entitled to divine honors (Jn. 5:23).
 - 5. He claimed to give life to the dead (Jn. 5:25).
 - 6. He claimed to possess eternal life (Jn. 5:26).
 - 7. He claimed that He will judge the world (Jn. 5:30; 12:48).
- B. He claims to be the Savior.
 - 1. He claimed that he came to seek the lost (Lk. 19:10).
 - 2. He claimed to forgive sins (Lk. 5:20; 5:24).
- C. He claimed to be a perfect man.
 - 1. He claimed that they could not convict Him of sin (Jn. 8:46).
 - 2. He claimed that He always pleased the Father (Jn. 8:29).

- D. Jesus claimed to be indispensable.
 - 1. We must abide or stay in X (Jn. 15:4).
 - 2. W/o Him we can do nothing (Jn. 15:5).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Paul's life and work shows that he truly believed in Jesus and loved Him.
 - 1. He did what the Lord said.
 - 2. He accepted His claims.
 - 3. He dedicated himself to His service.
- B. Do you have Paul's faith in your heart and life?
 - 1. Then you will not question or doubt anything that He tells you.
 - 2. You will not count material things or fame worth grasping.
 - 3. You will count all things loss for X (Phil. 3:7-11).
- C. Let us give up the love of the world and its values that we might gain X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.