

"FAITH COMES FROM HEARING..."

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Timothy 3:14-17; Romans 10:17**. From Roy H. Enoch (01/01/1995).
- B. I have presented several sermons that emphasized the study of God's word.
 - 1. The "Scriptures" that were preached by Jesus and the apostles were the OT writings.
 - 2. All of the NT writers cited OT scriptures or incidents to teach and warn w/the gospel.
 - 3. The OT commands were not given to us, but how those to whom they were given obeyed or rejected them, are our examples (1Cor. 10:1-13).
- C. In this lesson, we want to review the need and blessings of studying the word of God and present some ways that will encourage us to do it this year.
 - 1. The Bible is our guide to happiness here and hereafter.
 - 2. We cannot be saved in ignorance.
 - 3. Therefore, we need to study the Bible deeply and constantly.

I. THE BIBLE IS OUR GUIDE TO HAPPINESS HERE AND HEREAFTER.

- A. God's word directs our path for our happiness (Psa. 119:105; Jer. 10:23; Psa. 1:1-2).
 - 1. True happiness and contentment is in doing what God says.
 - 2. God's grace teaches us how to have eternal salvation (Ti. 2:11-12).
- B. The Bible describes the sin in our lives that kills us.
 - 1. Before treating a disease, the Doctor must stop what causes it.
 - 2. Christ died for our sins, and His blood is the cure.
 - 3. To receive the cure, we must repent or turn from the practice of sin (Lk. 13:3; 1Jn. 3:9).
- C. The Bible tells us how to apply the cure to our lives. When we walk according to the light of God's word, the blood of X will continue to cleanse us from all sin (1Jn. 1:7-10).

II. WE CANNOT BE SAVED IN IGNORANCE.

- A. We have to have instruction and constant guidance as Jesus said (Jn. 8:31-32).
 - 1. One can never be free from sin through ignorance or doing as he pleases.
 - 2. We must abide or stay in the teachings of X to have God (2Jn. v9).
- B. Man cannot change the teachings of the NT by adding "church tradition" or customs w/out ruining the gospel as Jesus said (Mt. 15:9).
- C. The HS was given to the apostles to guide them in the revealing of the gospel, confirming it by miracles and writing it for us.
 - 1. At the Last Supper, Jesus told the apostles that He would send the HS to them as a "Comforter" (KJV, ASV), "Helper" (NKJ, NASV), and "Counselor" (NIV) (Jn. 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7,13).
 - 2. On the day of Pentecost about fifty days later, the HS came upon the apostles and they spoke by inspiration in the native languages of the Jews from about 15 nations.
- D. Jesus emphasized the importance of His teachings with the figures of "gates" or "roads" (Mt. 7:13-14; Lk. 13:24).
 - 1. The way to heaven is as narrow as the truth of the gospel.
 - 2. The way to hell is as broad as the teachings and imaginations of men.
 - 3. X built one church, which is His body, and He is the head, and it is guided by the NT.
 - 4. Men have built hundreds of churches built on the customs, creeds and traditions of men.

III. THEREFORE, WE NEED TO STUDY THE BIBLE DEEPLY AND CONSTANTLY.

- A. Different people study at different levels and different speeds.
 - 1. Some read well and prefer to read, mark, make notes and cross-reference their Bibles.
 - 2. Some read well but are not familiar with names of peoples and places: They need to listen to the Bible read by one familiar with the names.

3. Some read poorly and have trouble getting the sense when they read and would profit from listening to it read.
 4. Some want to get the meaning more clearly than one version, and would profit from listening to a different version as they followed bible.
 5. Some have time when doing something routine to listen to the Bible.
 - a. While driving to work.
 - b. While doing routine work like vacuuming, cleaning or other housework; while driving a tractor on the farm, or mowing the yard, running a chainsaw, etc.
 - c. The small portable cassette players w/headphones and a clip for the belt can give real enjoyment to long tedious jobs, and greatly increase your Bible knowledge.
- B. It probably will not take as much time to read the NT or the whole Bible as you think.
1. It takes 18.5 hours to listen to the NT.
 2. It takes 54 hours to listen to the OT.
 3. It takes 72.5 hours to listen to the whole Bible.
 - a. That is only an hour and a half a week to read the entire Bible through in a year.
 - b. That is less time than one ball game or movie a week.
 4. For several years I have read the Bible through each six months.
 - a. It is only ten pages in my Bible a day.
 - b. Five pages a day would cover my large study Bible in a year.
 - c. Until I became fairly familiar w/ the names, I would listen to a tape in one version and follow in my Bible in another.
 - d. Now I read my NKJV the first six months and F. LaGard Smith's NARRATED BIBLE IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER the last six months.
 - e. I do recommend the use of tapes until you get familiar w/the names, especially in OT.
- C. It is not expensive even if you do not have the tapes.
1. NT tapes are \$18.00. OT tapes for the KJV and NIV are \$54.00.
 2. Many ordered tapes several years ago so some of you still have them.
 3. If someone needs the tapes and cannot afford them now, let me or one of the elders know and we will try to see that you have access to a set.
 4. We can prepare a chart to keep up w/ how we are doing.
 5. The challenge will encourage us to do something we will enjoy, and want to do anyway.
 6. It is something that each one, from kindergarten up can enjoy and profit from, and I know from experience that these young people will often be a challenge and an encouragement to their parents.

CONCLUSION.

- A. We all know that we need to know more about God's word.
- B. We also know that we know more than we are putting into practice.
- C. The Lord invites us to come to Him and He will forgive and bless (Mt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17).
- D. The Lord invites us to come because He loves us.
 1. We must trust Him enough to do whatever He says w/out question.
 2. We must love Him enough to want to do what He says.
 3. We must have a change of heart to put off the practice of sin in repentance.
 4. We must be willing to submit to a burial in baptism, in the likeness of His death that as He was raised from the dead, that we may also walk in a new life (Rom. 6:3-4).
 5. As His newborn babe, desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby (1Pet. 2:1-2).
 6. Listen to God's word, "For faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).