The Hard Truth About the Faith

John 12:44-50

Sermon Outline

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Sunday, April 19, 2015

A. It’s a Conviction that Enlightens Our Hearts (vv. 44-46):

1. Jesus spoke boisterously and in an urgent manner.
2. Jesus is bidding them to listen to what He is saying.
3. This is a person who without doubt has a deep, unreserved commitment to trust Christ based on their total, surrendered confidence in Him. This faith does not refuse to face reality but looks beyond all difficulties to God and His promises.
4. God officially and authoritatively brought Christ into world. The "sending" of the Son by the Father was from the glory which He had with the Father into the world, by way of the Incarnation, not a "sending" out into the world after His birth, as if denoting His mission among and His manifestation to the people.
5. Anyone who believe in the incarnation birth of Christ believes in God (1 John 4:2-3).
6. The person who took interest in Christ (as a result of all His teachings and works), after careful observation, with an inner comprehensive understanding of who Christ is has developed a good understanding of Christ.
   a) These saying came with many supernatural signs and wonders that can only come from God. The same for the apostles (Mark 16:14; Acts 4:30; 5:12; 14:3; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:4; Ex. 4:17 – same for people following Moses).
7. A person who can now see Christ has a true conviction that the promised Messiah has come.
8. The enlightenment to know He is the Christ is an unquenchable revelation due to the illuminating power of Christ.
   a) These believers are called 'sons of light,' Luke 16:8, not merely because they have received a revelation from God, but because in the New Birth they have received the spiritual capacity for it.
   b) To enlighten, give light to (Rev. 18:1; 21:23; 22:5); to give light to in a spiritual sense (Jn. 1:9; Eph. 1:18; Heb. 6:4; 10:32); to instruct, to make to see or understand (Eph. 3:9); to bring to light (1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Tim. 1:10)
9. Christ as light is being displayed (through lots of miracles and teachings) in a world that is in the grip of the evil one (1 John 5:19), an organized powerful force that is rebellious against God.
10. This is a person who continuously places their convictions in Christ through His Word.
11. The believer whose convictions are in Christ does not continue to come to ruin or live in an unhappy state. They come to ruin because they cannot understand the Word of God, they are influenced by Satan and they have a difficult time understanding how to make through life’s issues.

B. The Faith Delivers Us (vv. 47-48):

1. Anyone who listens to Christ with a heart to do what Christ is powerfully teaching.
2. A person who is an eyewitness to what is being said but does not take it serious so they go on their way with no intent to surrender to what is being said (Luke 8:14).
3. God continuously hold them to the sayings of Christ and therefore distinguishes whether they should be held liable for punishment.
4. Christ did not come to condemn or to determine whether a person is guilty or not.
5. Christ came to deliver people from spiritual bondage and provide eternal salvation to all those who believe.
6. This is a person who continuously breaks faith with Christ because they are always pushing the sayings of Christ to the side.
7. These are individuals who during Christ day continuously heard His teaching, saw His miracles but did not trust or develop a deep conviction in Christ.
8. Rejecting Christ sayings does not stop God from making a determination on who is guilty and liable for punishment.

C. The Faith Provides Life (vv. 49-50):
1. Christ made sure what He needed to say was said with the correct content.
2. God told Christ what to say:
   a) What Christ is saying was permanently put in place by God as a resource for us to constantly draw from.
   b) It is an authoritative order from God.
   c) Christ was told what to command people to believe.
   d) Christ made sure that what He was to command the people to do had all the content God gave to Him.
3. Christ is in a permanent condition of understanding all that God is saying because this is His continuous experience.
4. His authoritative sayings that we are ordered to follow.
5. Is continuously the order leads to experiencing eternal life.
6. The life God’s commands, Christ sayings provides is endless and blessed, unbroken by time and space.
7. Christ continuously makes sure that what He commands people to do had all the content God gave to Him.
8. Christ will not alter anything of the content provided by His Father.