

There Is One Faith
(Ephesians 4:4-6)

Introduction:

1. We are presently studying a series of lessons designed to help us know the truth concerning the 7 unique subjects listed in Ephesians 4:4-6.
2. In today's lessons we are concentrating on the "*one faith*" mentioned in vs.5.
3. Let us begin by pointing out that . . .

Discussion

- I. THE BIBLE SPEAKS ABOUT "FAITH" IN DIFFERENT SENSES
 - A. Many times "faith" refers to belief or trust in God.
 1. This kind of faith is essential (Hebrews 11:6).
 2. It is developed as a result of hearing God's Word properly (Romans 10:17).
 3. It is demonstrated by obedience to God's will (Hebrews 11:8).
 - B. The Bible speaks about different kinds of faith: "no faith" (Mark 4:40), "little faith" (Matthew 8:26), "dead faith" (James 2:17), and "great faith" (Matthew 8:10).
 - C. The Bible also makes a number of references to "*the faith*" that are of special interest to us in this study.
 - D. Let us turn our attention to . . .
- II. PASSAGES THAT IDENTIFY THE "*ONE FAITH*"
 - A. Acts 6:7
 1. The congregation in Jerusalem was experiencing tremendous growth.
 2. A problem developed that could have stopped this growth.
 3. Fortunately, the apostles handled this problem wisely.
 4. Vs.7 reveals the results: God's Word increased, and the number of disciples multiplied, and "*a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*"
 5. "The faith" is associated with God's Word, and it can be obeyed.
 - B. Acts 24:24
 1. While Paul was in custody, Felix "*heard him concerning the faith in Christ.*"
 2. "The faith" can be taught, and it can be heard [a message].
 - C. Galatians 1:20-24
 1. Paul was giving a biographical sketch of his life.
 - a. Before he became a Christian, he did his best to destroy Christianity.
 - b. After he was converted, he preached the faith [a message].
 2. The message Paul preached is revealed in Galatians 1:11-12 [the Gospel that the Lord had revealed to him].
 - D. We learn from these passages that "the faith" is the Gospel -- the message revealed by Christ.
 - E. This is the "one faith" mentioned in Ephesians 4:5 -- it is to be taught, it is to be heard, and it is to be obeyed.
- III. THE BIBLE CONTAINS NUMEROUS INSTRUCTIONS THAT RELATE TO THE "ONE FAITH"
 - A. (Acts 14:21-22) God's people are "*to continue in the faith.*"
 - B. (Acts 16:4-5) The church is to be "*established in the faith.*"
 - C. (1 Corinthians 16:13) God's people are to "*stand fast in the faith.*"
 - D. (Philippians 1:27) God's people are to strive together with one mind for "the faith of the Gospel."
 - E. (Jude 3) God's people are to earnestly contend for "the faith" that was delivered once for all.

Conclusion:

1. This evening we plan to examine a number of warnings given in the Bible concerning "the faith."
2. A special blessing is in store for those who "keep the faith" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).
3. Are you in "the faith?" (2 Corinthians 13:5)