

Sincere Faith

C. Sincere faith affects our approach to God in our work (**Hebrews 11:7** By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.)

1. By faith, Noah accepted the warning of God (**Hebrews 11:7** By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house.)

a. Notice the nature

1) The warning is Divine (**Genesis 6:12-17** And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this *is the fashion* which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; *with* lower, second, and third *stories* shalt thou make it. And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein *is* the breath of life, from under heaven; *and* everything that *is* in the earth shall die.)

2) Noah had no personal knowledge concerning the type of punishment God would bring “being warned of God of things.” (**Genesis 2:5-6** And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till -- the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth and watered -- the whole face of the ground.) Proverbs 22:3 says, “A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.” So, a prudent man sees and avoids trouble, but the naive, the simple-minded, continue down a path and are punished. The prophet Ezekiel was set up as a watchman for the house of Israel. Chapter 3, verses 16-19 show Israel’s response to God’s warning: “And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, **17** Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. **18** When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at thine hand. **19** Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered -- thy soul.) Second Peter 2:3-10 describes the character of the last days: “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, **4** And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. **5** For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: **6** Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. **7** But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. **8** But, beloved, be not ignorant -- of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. **9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which, the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

b. Notice Noah’s action concerning God’s warning— “moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house.” Noah moved with reverence and respect because of who God was and because of the warning God gave to Noah.

1. Prepared: he heard God’s warning and acted accordingly. The knowledge didn’t just touch his intellect but also influenced his actions. Noah’s faith produced action. He prepared an ark.

2. His action placed him into God's provision. Saving carries the "idea of motion into any place or thing; also of motion or direction to, toward or upon any place, thing." His action into God's plan delivers him and his family. (**Genesis 6:18** But with thee will I establish -- my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. **7:1** And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for -- thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. **7:23** And -- every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. **8:16** Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. **Ezekiel 14:12-14** The word of the Lord came again to me, saying, **13** Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it: **14** Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God. **14:20** Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness. **1 Peter 3:20** Which sometimes were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.)

2. His faith condemned the world (**Hebrews 11:7** by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.) Remember (**Hebrews 11:1-2** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **2** For by it, the elders obtained a good report.) Condemned "By implication, to condemn by contrast, i.e., to show by one's good conduct that others are guilty of misconduct and deserve condemnation, followed by the acc. (**Matt. 12:41** The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a greater than Jonah is here **42** The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here. **Luke 11:31-32** The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here. **32** The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a greater than Jonah is here.)

3 Noah's faith allowed him to be an inheritor of righteousness by faith "and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Righteousness— "where faith is counted or imputed as righteousness or as evidence of piety."

- a. Ones that are of faith live in their faith. (**Romans 1:17** For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall live by faith.)
- b. Christ is the righteousness of our faith (**Romans 3:22** Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference. **Romans 4:13** For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. **Philippians 3:9** And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith. **2 Peter 1:1** Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ.)