

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

October, 2016

The Wise Still Seek Him

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

Vol. VIII.10

Message
of
Jesus Christ

Let Us Hold Fast the Profession of [Our] Faith!

Let us begin with the obvious! One cannot hold fast that which one does not have! Many people are walking through this life not knowing what they believe or in whom they believe. They bend with the blowing of the wind from day to day. Their lives are broken and without direction.

During the times of the prophets in the Old Testament, life was much the same. The Israelites were bending with the different gods of the nations that surrounded them; they began participating in the worship of the gods of this world (1 K 11). They lost their way and were floundering. The prophets spoke forth the Word of the Lord saying, "Thus saith the Lord . . ." (Ex; Jos; Jud; I and II Sa; I and II K; I and II Chr; Isa; Jer; Eze; Amo; Oba; Mic; Nah; Hag; Zec; Mal).

Those living during the time of the Primitive Church (New Testament) who were following the Lord Jesus Christ were in great need of encouragement as persecution affected their lives greatly. The Word of the Lord reminds us that we are to "...hold fast the profession of [our] faith without wavering..." (Heb 10.23).

We must have the Word of the Lord deep within us as the trials come into our lives to shake our faith in Christ Jesus, as the enemy endeavors to distract us from the Lord – one miniscule step at a time.

The word *faith* is used today to mean anything one wants it to mean. Recently, on a national radio station, it was used to mean a synthesis of many religions of the world, that the person had a deep faith that included a multiplicity of many religions. A thesaurus gives other words for *faith* as "devotion," "commitment." How can one have a commitment to a multiplicity of religions and gods?

The Bible makes it clear that the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob said,

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the water under the earth:

The Word of God in Christ Jesus also states that we are not to forsake the "assembling of ourselves together" (Heb 10.25). Many interpret that to mean Sunday morning at 11:00 AM in a building.

There is little, if any, understanding of Acts 2.41-47, true assembling together of the body of Christ. The assembling together of the body of Christ is daily as we come together in the Name of the Lord that we might be strengthened for the journey that lies before us, that we might "**Hold fast the profession of [our] faith without wavering,**" that we might profess Who Jesus is and the hope we have because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the life everlasting that we have in Heaven – when Jesus is our Lord and Savior.

Do you have full assurance of faith professing hope in the future with Jesus Christ in Heaven? **Are you – holding fast the profession of your faith in Jesus Christ – without wavering?**

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess, The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.

Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *[am]* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *[generation]* of them that hate me (Ex 20.3-5).

The Word of God in Christ Jesus, “Let us hold fast the profession of *[our]* faith without wavering; (for he *[is]* faithful that promised;)” is a way of life in Jesus Christ (Heb 10.23). “**Let us hold fast**” is to be steadfast, to possess, to persevere. If this is indeed the meaning of holding fast, what is it we are to hold fast? The Holy Bible states “Let us hold fast **the profession.**” What is our profession? Our profession is the One Whom we profess to be our Lord and Savior. It is confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, as the only way to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel). Holding fast the profession is to persevere in our confession of Jesus Christ with our lives – daily (Rom 10.9-10).

The Holy Bible goes on to say, “Let us hold fast the profession **of *[our]* faith.**” Where is our faith? Is our faith in the Lord? It was laid before me this morning once again that if our faith is in the Lord, we will lay ourselves before the Lord – not calling upon others to give us direction. So often we become trusting of people instead of God in Christ Jesus. How many times do I lay a need before someone seeking direction in the matter at hand? Do **not misunderstand** this statement. The Lord does use people to minister to us. However, when we tell people our needs, we are seeking a word from them – all too often.

Have we failed to “**hold fast the profession of *[our]* faith**”? Have we displaced our faith from the Lord to people? Perhaps we need to look at our prayer life and the profession of our faith and how we are living that profession of our faith – or **NOT** living it.

We are called to live a life of faith, to trust the Lord to meet our needs, to hold fast “the profession of *[our]* faith” even in times of persecution; hold fast to Jesus Christ and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Yes, “the profession of *[our]* faith” is about our public confession of Jesus Christ to the world. It is living our confession in Jesus Christ. It is persevering in our love of Jesus Christ and His Holy Word, steadfastly retaining our hope, our faith in Jesus Christ, even in the midst of the enemy coming against us – trying to force us to succumb to him and become one of his apostles or ministers (II Cor 11.13-15) – by his lies and accusations against us, as well as possible persecutions.

I am reminded of George Muëller of whom it was written that, though he had large needs for the ministry to which he was called, he went to the Lord in prayer – without telling others of his needs. He knew the Lord was his provider.

“Let us hold fast the profession of *[our]* faith **without wavering**” is the call upon all who are followers of Jesus Christ. How many times do I pray from the Book of Mark, “...Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief” (Mk 9.24).

We talk of belief, but in whom do we place our trust, our belief? How many signs and T-shirts are there that have something about believe, such as “Believe in yourself”? Sometimes the word stands alone: “Believe.” It is thought if you believe in anything, that is what will build you up – especially if you believe in yourself.

Belief in oneself or idols will NOT bring you peace, is NOT life giving. When the Word of the Lord states, “**Let us hold fast the profession of *[our]* faith without wavering,**” the Word is stating that we are to hold fast to the One in Whom we believe, Jesus Christ. But there is more; we can know that when we repent of our sins and ask Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Savior, and we live for Him, walk with Him daily, “**He is faithful that has promised.**” He has promised us eternal life in Heaven, a home in Heaven where we will live forever with Him and know the joy of the Lord as never before.

Satan has come in like a flood, and we find that the foundations are shaken. No, the Word of God stands strong, but too many are shaken as they have wavered with the teachings of the Word of God, the Holy Bible (10/13 *Message*: “The Foundations Are Shaken”). When the foundations are shaken and Jesus Christ is NOT in one’s life, one cannot “Hold fast the profession of *[our]* faith.” Holding fast the profession of our faith is in Jesus Christ and the foundation established long ago in Christ Jesus.

How many no longer believe there is a Heaven and a hell (Ps 139.8)? How many no longer believe that it matters if you have gods in your life (Isa 42.17) and no longer believe in Jesus Christ as the only Begotten Son of God (Jn 3.16)? How many no longer believe that Jesus Christ is “the way, the truth, and the life” (Jn 14.6)? How many no longer believe in the Bible and the commands all through the Bible, as well as the Decalogue, that are binding upon us, and that we are to walk in obedience to the Lord God (Jdg 2.17)?

“Let us hold fast the profession of *[our]* faith” is to live for the One to Whom we have surrendered our lives, Jesus Christ. Holding fast the profession of our faith is to make known publicly to the world in **word and deed** that our faith and our hope is in Jesus Christ, and Him alone, through all that comes to us as we stand for Jesus Christ – even through persecution (Mt 10.32; Rom 10.9-10).

It is not true faith if we keep it to ourselves; true faith will be acknowledged before men (Mt 10.32; Lk 12.8). It is steadfastly retaining our faith with confidence in the Captain of our Host, Jesus Christ. It is persevering in that faith and hope of Jesus not looking to the left nor to the right (Jos 1.7), but fixing our hearts and minds upon the Lord (Ps 112.7) knowing His grace is sufficient for the time at hand (II Cor 12.9).

The Holy Bible goes on to say that we need to “consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Heb 10.24, 25). We need to encourage one another as the body of Christ to “hold fast the profession of *[our]* faith,” that we might not waver.