

Responsive Reading

Ephesians 2:8-9; 1Corinthians 15:1-4

Brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand.

By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

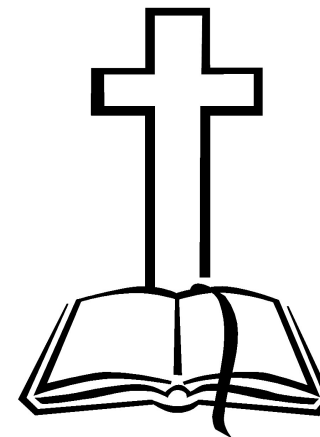
For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Worship Service



Where Is Your Faith?

Order of Worship

Opening Prayer

Hymns

Savior, Like a Shepherd Page 11

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Responsive Reading

Hymn

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Devotion

"Where is Your Faith?"

Poem

"Wide Open"

Closing Hymn

Rock of Ages Page 14

Closing Prayer

Wide Open

Bernard of Clairvaux and C. P. Krauth

Wide open are Thy loving hands

To pay with more than gold

The awful debt of guilty men,

Forever and of old.

Ah, let me grasp those pierced hands,

That we may never part,

And let the power of their blood

Sustain my fainting heart.

Wide open are Thy saving arms,

A fallen world t' embrace;

To take to love and endless rest

Our whole forsaken race.

Lord I am helpless, sad and poor,

But boundless is Thy grace;

Give me the soul-transforming joy

For which I seek Thy face.

"Where is Your Faith?"

Opening Prayer: Father, today, grant us spiritual eyes and ears to see Your Truth and hear your Word. Give us understanding. Thank You, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Devotion:

Text: *...they came to him, and awoke him, saying, "Master, Master, we perish." Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, "Where is your faith?"* Luke 8:24-25a

Our text is taken from a very familiar event recorded in Holy Scripture. Jesus has boarded a small sailing vessel with His twelve disciples. He told them to go over to the other side of the lake. On the journey, Jesus fell asleep. A really big storm blew up. The boat was taking on water and they were fearful of sinking. They woke Jesus and told him they were going to perish. He got up, spoke a rebuke to the wind and the waves and there was instantly a calm. Jesus asked them a very profound question: "Where is your faith?"

It is true, they were following the right person - Jesus. They were obeying his instructions. They were in the boat that He was in. They were sailing to where He had told them to go. The only problem was that the One they were following had been peacefully sleeping. The One that was supposed to keep them safe was sound asleep! It is important to note that they were content to let Him sleep as long as they were not concerned for their safety.

Several of them were fishermen. I'm sure most of these guys had been in a boat before. But, possibly, this was the first time they had been in a boat with Jesus. And since He was asleep, they must have figured they were pretty much on their own.

They knew the boat would float. It was fashioned by a craftsman who used the right wood, the right tools and had the right plans.

"Where is Your Faith?" continued

But, they also knew the boat could only take on so much water, and the waves were gushing in. So, based on their past experience with boats, they figured they were in big trouble.

The answer to Jesus' question, "Where is your faith?" is simple - their faith was in the boat. As long as they felt safe in the boat they let Jesus sleep. When the boat's ability to float was in jeopardy, their faith in the boat was shattered and they were scared to death.

As we face the challenges of life; as we endure hardships we never dreamed we would encounter; as our loved ones pass on, our friends leave us and our bodies fail; as we are confronted with the unfairness of our circumstances...are we overwhelmed with fear as the disciples were? Have we put our faith in the pleasures and securities of this life and found them all to eventually collapse? Oh, how easy it is to "let Jesus sleep" as long as we feel comfortable in ourselves. We must ask ourselves: "Where is our faith?"

Jesus said,

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:1-3)

Oh, may our Heavenly Father give us the faith to believe the words of Jesus! Let us take our eyes off our circumstances and fix them firmly on the promise of Christ! He will never fail...only believe.

Closing Prayer: Blessed Father, we are weak, but You are strong. God, sometimes it seems You are asleep in our circumstances. Grant us the faith we need to trust you no matter what. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, and for His glory, Amen.