

# THE PRACTICE OF FAITH

## Lesson One

James 2: 14 - 26

Donald Townsley

### I. Introduction

- a. There is no phase of the study of the faith that needs greater emphasis than does that of **“the practice of faith”**.
- b. The tendency on the part of most all of us is to strongly accept, affirm, and defend all of the ramifications of the subject of faith, but many of us are weak when we come to the practice of it.

### II. We Need to Practice the Faith Because Without Practice it is Like:

- a. *“Clouds without water”* – Jude 12
- b. Theory without application.
- c. *“Form without godliness”* – 2 Tim. 3:5.
- d. The body without the spirit – James 2:26.

### III. We Must Have the Obedience of Faith

- a. Paul speaks of the obedience of faith – Rom. 1:5; 16:26.
- b. John says, *“He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”* – I John 2:4
  - i. In other words: Knowledge equals Practice.
- c. The Thessalonians had work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope – I Thess. 1:3.
- d. Paul speaks of the faith that worketh by love – Gal. 5: 6.

### IV. The Necessity of the Practice of Faith is Demonstrated by Word Descriptions of a Christian:

- a. Word descriptions of the Christian’s Influence:
  - i. He is the salt of the earth – Matt. 5:13.
  - ii. He is the light of the world – Matt. 5:14 – 16.
  - iii. He is a part of the leaven of righteousness – Matt. 13:33.
- b. Word descriptions of the Christian’s relationship to the body of Christ – Eph. 4: 16:
  - i. He is a member of the body – Eph. 4:16; Rom. 12:4.
  - ii. He has talents according to his ability – Matt. 25:15.
  - iii. He is a laborer in the vineyard – Matt. 20: 1 – 6.
- c. Word descriptions of the Christian’s profession:
  - i. He is a RUNNER – Heb. 12:1 – 2.
  - ii. He is a SOLDIER – Eph. 6: 10 – 17.
  - iii. He is a PRIEST – I Pet. 5:2

### V. The Necessity of the Practice of the Faith is Further Demonstrated by the Many Admonitions to Christians

- a. Make bodies a living sacrifice – Rom. 12: 1- 2
- b. Fight the good fight of faith – I Tim. 6:12

- c. Do good unto all men – Gal. 6:10
  - d. Be ready to every good work – Tit. 3:1
  - e. Visit the fatherless, widows, and keep unspotted from the world – James 1:27.
  - f. Give diligence to make calling and election sure – 2 Pet. 1: 5 – 10.
  - g. Take heed lest ye fall – I Cor. 10:12.
  - h. Make straight paths for feet – Heb. 12: 13.
  - i. Walk honestly as in the day – Rom. 13:13.
- VI. Impelling Motives that Cause Us to Practice the Faith**
- a. The Love of God – John 3:16; I John 4: 10
  - b. The Fear of God – Heb. 10:31.
  - c. The love for the souls of men.
  - d. The love for the church.
  - e. The reward of eternal life.
  - f. The desire to do one's best.

*Preached at Grandview, Ky 1968; Underwood Hts. 1971*

# THE PRACTICE OF FAITH

## LESSON TWO

1 Cor. 15:58; James 2

Donald Townsley

### I. Introduction

- a. In our first lesson, we pointed out the necessity of the practice of faith.
- b. It will do no good to believe the faith if we are not going to practice it in our lives.
- c. The first lesson was an introduction to the lesson today, and the next lesson.
- d. Our lesson deals with, *"The Individual's Practice of the Faith"*.

### II. The Negative Practice of the Faith

- a. Must deny ungodliness and worldly lust – Tit. 2: 11 – 12.
  - i. "UNGODLINESS" – impiety, irreverence, a lack of respect of God and sacred things.
    - 1. "All failure in the performance of our proper duties toward God".
    - 2. A failure to worship and serve Him.
    - 3. One who does not respect the church and its work enough to attend the services are UNGODLY.
    - 4. Cursing and using the name of God in vain.
  - ii. "WORLDLY LUST" – All improper desires pertaining to this life; the desire of wealth, pleasure, honor, sensual indulgence regarding our dress, recreation, speech, human relations, and religion.
- b. We MUST put to death the deeds of the old man – Col. 3: 5 – 10.

### III. Positive Practice of the Faith

- a. Responsibility to STUDY the Bible:
  - i. Study the Scriptures – 2 Tim. 2: 15.
  - ii. Examine the Scriptures – Acts 17:11; I Thess. 5:21.
  - iii. Meditate on the Scriptures – Psalms 1: 1 – 2.
  - iv. Read the Scriptures – I Tim. 4:13.
- b. Responsibility to TEACH others:
  - i. Teach all men – Matt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16: 15 – 16.
  - ii. Ought to be teachers – Heb. 5: 12; 2 Tim. 2:2.
- c. Responsibility to BRETHREN
  - i. Comfort one another – I Thess. 4:18; 2 Cor. 1:4
  - ii. Exhort and build up one another – I Thess. 5:11.
  - iii. Provoke or stimulate one another to love and good works – Heb. 10:24.
  - iv. Convert the erring from the error of their way – James 5: 19 – 20.
  - v. Restore them that are overtaken in a fault – Gal. 6:1.
  - vi. The offended to go to the offender – Matt. 18: 15 – 16.
- d. Responsibility to FAMILY
  - i. Husbands to love their wives – Eph. 5:25.
  - ii. Wives to be in subjection to husbands – Eph. 5: 22 – 24.

- iii. Children obey parents – Eph. 6:1.
  - iv. Parents provoke not children to wrath – Eph. 6: 4.
  - v. Aged women train younger women – Tit. 2: 2 – 5.
- e. Responsibility to cultivate those with natural abilities that stem from one's relationship with Christ:
  - i. Love the brotherhood – I Pet. 2:17
  - ii. Practice hospitality – Rom. 12:13.
  - iii. Shun the very appearance of evil – I Thess. 5:22.
  - iv. Provide for things honest in the sight of all men – Rom. 12: 17.

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# THE PRACTICE OF FAITH

## Lesson 3

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### I. Introduction

- a. This is the last lesson on this subject.
- b. In the last lesson we studied the Individual's Practice of Faith.
- c. Today, our study has to do with the CONGREGATION'S PRACTICE OF THE FAITH.

### II. Negative Practice

- a. The church, or congregation, must not be dead – Rev. 3:1.
  - i. Causes of spiritual death:
    - 1. A church is dead when it worships its own past instead of finding a challenge in its hopes for the future.
    - 2. A church is dead when it is more concerned with MATERIAL than with SPIRITUAL things.
    - 3. A church is dead when love for one another is gone – Heb. 13:1; 2 Pet. 1:7; John 13: 34 – 35.
- b. It must not harbor and tolerate SIN:
  - i. The church at Pergamos – Rev. 2: 12 – 16
  - ii. The church at Corinth – I Cor. 5: 1 – 5
- c. It must not be lukewarm – Rev. 3: 14 – 17.
- d. When a congregation arrives at the point where its mission is NOT one of light-bearing, then its Candlestick is removed – Rev. 2:5.

### III. Positive Practice

- a. Must WORSHIP in Spirit and in Truth – John 4:24.
  - i. Singing – Eph. 5:19
  - ii. Giving – 2 Cor. 9:7
  - iii. Lord's Supper – I Cor. 11: 29
  - iv. Prayer – I Cor. 14:15
- b. Must do the work of EDIFICATION:
  - i. Seek to excel in edifying the church—I Cor. 14:12
  - ii. Feed the flock – Acts 20: 28
  - iii. Bible classes are for this purpose, along with all periods of worship.
- c. Must maintain DISCIPLINE:
  - i. 2 Thess. 3:6; I Cor. 5: 1 – 5.
- d. Must promote Unity and Fellowship among brethren – Eph. 4: 1 – 3; John 17: 20 – 21; I Cor. 1:10.
  - i. The Spirit of Unity should be breathed into:
    - 1. Every Song that is Sung.
    - 2. Every Prayer that is Prayed.

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