

Reasons To Keep The Faith

(2 Timothy 4:6-8)

- Introduction:
1. At the end of Paul's life, after many struggles and trials, he said that he had kept the faith.
 2. But why? What motivated him to endure such hardship?
 3. For that matter, why should we turn control of our life over to one who promises us difficulties (Matthew 10:34-39; 2 Timothy 3:12).
 4. While there are many reasons to do so, I believe three are fundamental.
 5. If these reasons don't motivate you to become a Christian and to keep the faith, I don't know what else I can offer you.

I. Because Of What Jesus Did On The Cross

- A. The humiliation of the cross (Philippians 2:8).
- B. The agony of the cross (Luke 22:44; Mt. 27:26-30; Isaiah 50:6; 52:14).
- C. The purpose of the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21).

II. Because Of Heaven

- A. John attempts to describe his vision of Heaven to us in Revelation 21.
- B. One reason to keep the faith is so that Heaven will be yours.
 1. A place of reward (Matthew 5:11-12).
 2. A place of reunion (2 Samuel 12:23).
 3. Because of the things present (1 Peter 1:4; Revelation 21:3; Hebrews 12:22-23).
 4. Because of the things absent (Revelation 21:4, 27).

III. Because Of Hell

- A. (2 Corinthians 5:11) Hell has been diminished, ignored, and all but eliminated today.
- B. Ills. Jonathan Edwards and "Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God."
- C. Hell is:
 1. The wrath of God (Hebrews 10:29-31; Proverbs 20:2).
 2. Eternal (Matthew 25:46).
 3. A place of fire (Revelation 20:15).
 4. A place of no relief (Revelation 14:11).
 5. A place of no hope.

- Conclusion:
1. Why should you be a Christian and keep the faith?
 2. I've given you three reasons.
 3. (Isaiah 1:18) Come let us reason together.