



THE KEYS OF CHRISTMAS PT.1

THE KEY OF FAITH

QUOTE: SEE, I TRULY THINK THAT TOO MUCH OF ANYTHING THAT ISN'T INHERENTLY BAD, EVEN SOMETHING GOOD BUT ISN'T GOD, CAN TURN INTO A BAD THING. -PR

WITH ALL OF THE FUN THINGS WE DO DURING CHRISTMAS, WE CAN LOSE SIGHT OF WHY WE ARE DOING IT.

CHRISTMAS ISN'T SOMETHING BOUGHT OR SOMETHING YOU WATCH ON TV. IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN EAT OR COOK. YOU CAN'T BOTTLE IT OR SHIP IT. CHRISTMAS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT HAS MONETARY VALUE; IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN DECORATE WITH BOWS OR GREENRY.

CHRISTMAS HAS UNLIMITED VALUE; YES, IT CAN BE DISPLAYED IN ACTION, BUT IT ISN'T LIMITED BY HUMAN MEANS OR TERMS. CHRISTMAS IS A PERSON OR RATHER THE CELEBRATION OF A PERSON COMING.

Micha 5:2-5

LETS BREAK THIS DOWN JUST A LITTLE...

VERSE ONE A: But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,

MATTHEW 2:1-6

THE WISE MEN QUOTE MICHA CHAPTER 5, WHICH CONFIRMS TO US THAT JESUS IS WHO MICHA WAS TALKING ABOUT.

BETHLEHEM TRANSLATES TO “HOUSE OF BREAD”

EPHRATHA IS THE OLD NAME OF THE CITY AND TRANSLATES TO “FRUITFUL”

JESUS TO THE CROWDS:

JOHN 6:33-35

MICHA CONTINUES:

one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS NO ORDINARY CHILD... THIS IS
A CHILD FROM THE ANCIENT DAY... THE BEGINNING OF
TIME.

JOHN 1:1-4

HEBREWS 13:20-21

**THIS SEASON WE CELEBRATE THE GREATEST GIFT THAT
HAS EVER BEEN GIVEN. THE GIFT IS GREAT BECAUSE IT
SOLVED OUR NEED AND FULFILLED OUR PRICE OF SIN**

**HEBREWS 13:8, 15-16, 20-21 (CONTEXT OF PERSONAL
SACRIFICES TO GOD)**

TRUTH: AS BELIEVERS, WE CELEBRATE JESUS TODAY
NOT BECAUSE OF THE DATE ON THE CALENDAR BUT
BECAUSE HE IS GOD, AND BY HIS BLOOD, WE HAVE
ACCESS TO ETERNITY AND A PROMISE THAT HE WILL
FULFILL EVERY GOOD THING IN US FOR HIS WILL AND HIS
GLORY FOREVER! AMEN!

FAITH.

Ephesians 2:8-9

HEBREWS 11:19-22

THE FIRST KEY OF CHRISTMAS: FAITH

ROMANS 10:17

ROMANS 10:9-10

WHAT IS FAITH??

Faith noun Dictionary Definition of *faith*

1a: allegiance to duty or a person : loyalty lost faith in the company's president

b(1): fidelity to one's promises

(2): sincerity of intentions acted in good faith

2a(1): belief and trust in and loyalty to God

(2): belief in the traditional doctrines of a religion

b(1): firm belief in something for which there is no proof clinging to the faith that her missing son would one day return

(2): complete trust

3: something that is believed especially with strong conviction especially : a system of religious beliefs the Protestant faith

THE BIBLES DEFINITION OF FAITH:

HEBREWS 11:1-3

SOME QUICK OBSERVATIONS OF THE BIBLE'S DEFINITION (HEB 11):

1. Faith is a reality of our hope, not what is seen.
2. Faith is an emphasis on trust, trust so great that it brings conviction.
3. Creation testifies to the reality of our faith.
4. Faith comes with evidence in the testimony of those who came before us.
5. Faith does not come with a timeline or map. But does come with assurance.

GREEK WORD BY THE WAY: *pistis*, which means a firm persuasion

What does this have to do with Christmas?

In Luke's Gospel, we read about the birth of Jesus... in Luke 2:21-35, we pick up the story with Jesus being 8 days old...

Simeon's words assert that

- 1) Jesus would be the salvation of the world,
- 2) He would deliver truth not only to those in Israel but also to the Gentiles, and
- 3) Jesus would bring glory upon the people of Israel.

SPEAKING TO MARY, Simeon said that

- 1) some of the Jewish people would believe that Jesus is the “consolation of Israel,” and some would not,
- 2) there would be much opposition to Jesus in the future,
- 3) Jesus would reveal the truth, and
- 4) Jesus' suffering would cause Mary much pain, personally.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM SIMEON?

WE, TOO, ARE IN A SEASON OF WAITING WITH ANTICIPATION... BUT AS WE WAIT, WE ARE GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS...

MATTHEW 28:16-20

ACTS 1:4-11

MY DEAR FRIENDS, AS WE GEAR UP FOR CHRISTMAS, MAY WE NOT FORGET TO STAND FIRM IN OUR FAITH. THAT WE DO HAVE A REASON TO CELEBRATE!

JESUS' FAITHFUL PROMISE & ENCOURAGEMENT:

JOHN 14:1-17