

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?" 1 Corinthians 14:8

KJV

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THIS NEWSPAPER

The Original BAPTIST OBSERVER



"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls..." Jeremiah 6:16

Sounding Out The Faith

April 2020

Two Natures in the Child of God

Let's first consider how one becomes a "possessor" of the two natures. Every person conceived receives the old nature from the physical process passed down from their parents.

"Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." Ephesians 2:3

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Psalm 51:5

"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies." Psalm 58:3

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3:6

We receive the new nature by being born again of the Spirit of God at the point of salvation.

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." John 3:7

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." I John 3:9

"We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not." I John 5:18

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." I Peter 1:23

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." II Peter 1:4

The Bible names the two natures in the child of God and defines them in the Scriptures. Here are the names of the physical nature.

1) The Flesh:

"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Romans 8:8-9

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him." John 6:63-64

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." Romans 7:18

2) The Natural Man:

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Corinthians 2:14

3) The Old Man:

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;" Ephesians 4:22

4) The Outward Man:

"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." II Corinthians 4:16

5) The Heart:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9

"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man." Matthew 15:18-20

6) The Carnal Mind:

"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Romans 8:7

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Genesis 6:5

7) Sin:

"Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." Romans 7:17

Here are the names of the new nature and the Scriptures that define them.

1) The Spirit:

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

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421 South 40th Street
Springfield, Oregon 97478

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PERMIT NO. 178
SALEM, OR

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Contact Springfield FLMBBC by mail, or phone 541-747-3549.

- Published by:
- Albany Missionary Baptist Church, Albany, OR
www.albanymissionarybaptist.org
 - Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Creswell, OR
www.creswellmbchurch.com
 - Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Reedsport, OR
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THE DEVIL, THE GREAT IMITATOR!

God is a Trinity. Matthew 28:19-20; II Corinthians 13:14

The Devil works as a trinity. Revelation 16:13

God has His children. Galatians 3:26; John 1:12

The Devil has his children. John 8:44

God works in His children. Philippians 2:13

The devil works in his children. Ephesians 2:2

Christ manifested in the flesh is the mystery of

Godliness revealed. I Timothy 3:16

The devil manifested in the flesh will be the mystery of iniquity revealed. II Thessalonians 2:7-9

God has a gospel message. I Corinthians 15:1-4

The devil has a perverted gospel. Galatians 1:6-9

God has His New Testament churches with an unbroken lineage, church to church, back to the seashores of Galilee. Matthew 16:18

The devil has his churches. Revelation 2:9

God uses music that touches the heart. Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

The devil uses music that touches the lustful flesh.

Exodus 32:1-35; Daniel 3:1-7

Christ appointed apostles before the Word of God was completed. Luke 6:12-13

The devil has his apostles. II Corinthians 11:13-15

Christ has His doctrines. Mark 1:22; II John 9-11

The devil has his doctrines. I Timothy 4:1; Mark 7:6-7

Christ is the Light and it is reflected through His New Testament churches in the world today.

John 8:12; Matthew 5:14-16

The devil imitates being an angel of light.

II Corinthians 11:13-15

The devil is the great imitator. By doing so, he is trying to counterfeit God's work.

This is how he works to deceive the people.

He is looking to "imitate" so that his ways

look "close" to God's ways whereby he can

lie in wait to deceive.

"And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Colossians 2:4-8

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." John 3:5-7

"For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Romans 8:6-8

2) The Divine Nature:

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." II Peter 1:4

3) The New Man:

"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Ephesians 4:24

"Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17

4) The Inward Man:

"For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:" Romans 7:22

5) The Mind:

"But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." Romans 7:23-25

6) The Spirit of Christ:

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Romans 8:9

With these two natures, there is a great conflict. They are at odds being direct opposites. Just as Ishmael and Isaac were contrary the one to the other because Ishmael was after the flesh and Isaac after the spirit.

"Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born* after the Spirit, even so *it is* now." Galatians 4:28-29

So then also are the two natures when one has been saved by the grace of God. These two natures are contrary the one to the other. One nature is after the flesh and the other nature after the spirit.

"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." Galatians 5:17

The result is that a child of God now has the choice to which nature they will yield themselves to obey.

"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is* good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. For the

good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." Romans 7:14-25

As children of God, we have responsibilities to these two natures.

To the old nature:

We have responsibility to accept God's estimate of our old nature.

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:6-11

We have responsibility to make no provisions for our old nature and to mortify it.

"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*." Romans 13:14

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:" Colossians 3:5

To the New Nature:

We need to understand and reckon that we are spiritually alive by the new birth.

"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." Romans 8:11

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 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. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:4-10

We should walk in this new nature.

"*This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." Galatians 5:16

Most importantly, to accomplish these things in the new nature, we must feed our new nature on the Word of God.

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:" I Peter 2:2

Remember as children of God it is our choice as to which nature we will yield ourselves to. Choose wisely by the help of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

Saved, Sanctified, and Choosing to be Controlled by the Holy Spirit!

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." II Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible has right division and it must be left in context as it is studied.

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." II Timothy 2:15

Salvation is according to God's Word. One must first hear the true gospel according to God's Word.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16

There is only one true gospel.

"Moreover, 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:" I Corinthians 15:1-4

We have warnings against trying to use any other gospel.

"But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Galatians 1:8

"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him." II Corinthians 11:4

We are warned of being tossed about with every wind of doctrine.

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;" Ephesians 4:14

Studying the Scriptures by rightly dividing and with understanding of the harmony of the Scriptures, we can clearly see that salvation is decidedly by faith alone, minus nothing and plus nothing!

"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." Ephesians 2:8-9

"Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all," Romans 4:16

"Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 20:21

One is saved by believing in the Lord, Jesus Christ with the heart. One must understand that it is all in Jesus and what He did for all mankind. Our own merits only earn us an eternity in Hell. It is, however, through the merits of what Jesus did that man can be made justified in the sight of God.

"But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:5-7

After one is saved, they are sanctified inwardly, "set apart", to do a service for God. God has made no provision for someone to just be saved and not to continue to follow Him in service inside one of His local, New Testament churches.

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." I Timothy 2:3-4

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." I Timothy 3:15

God's desire and purpose for man is that they would have fellowship with Him. Salvation is only the first step by having a relationship with God as a child of God. God's Word is clear that His desire is not complete for man until fellowship is accomplished.

Sanctification of the soul takes place at salvation, but God then desires for the outward sanctification to take place by following God's will in one's life.

"That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost." Romans 15:16

God desires for us to give Him our life in service to Him. This must first begin after salvation through God's order of Scriptural baptism, and membership in a local, New Testament church.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:41-47

The outward sanctification comes after salvation, Scriptural baptism, New Testament church membership, and then walking in the way of the Lord through His Word.

Jesus prayed for His church before He died on the

cross. He was in the upper room with the eleven as they were observing the Lord's Supper. (Hebrews 2:12)

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." John 17:3-11

After submitting to Scriptural baptism and New Testament church membership, one must now yield themselves to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;" Ephesians 5:17-18

The word "filled" means to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. In Romans chapter 6, children of God now have a choice to which nature they will follow. Being controlled by the Holy Spirit means yielding to the leadership of the Holy Spirit by the truth of God's Word.

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example." Philippians 3:7-17

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:1-2

The Faith In These Last Days

“For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, *even* a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians *are* always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.” Titus 1:10-16

“I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” Jude 3

“The Faith” has reference to the whole body of truth, not to the individual's personal confidence in God.

Paul was obedient to the faith, the system of doctrines he had been instructed in by Jesus in the Word.

“By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:” Romans 1:5

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.” I Corinthians 16:13

We are told to “examine” ourselves to see if we are in “the faith”. Examined according to the Word of God to see if our teachings are in line with the truth of God's Word.

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” II Corinthians 13:5

Walking in “the faith” is not something you do when it is convenient. It is a way of life and it is to be continued in, without wavering.

“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;” Colossians 1:23

“Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” Colossians 2:7-8

There are those that would strive to turn others from “the faith”.

“But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.” Acts 13:8

Paul and Barnabas exhort others to “continue in the faith”.

“Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” Acts 14:22

Churches were established in “the faith” through the Word of God being preached and taught.

“And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.” Acts 16:5

Churches were admonished to strive together for the faith.

“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;” Philippians 1:27

There is only one, true faith or system of doctrines.

“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.” Ephesians 4:3-6

The Scriptures are clear that in the last days there will be those that want to “water down” or compromise “the faith”. We are definitely in the last days before Jesus comes, the signs are all around us. Consider what the Scriptures say concerning this and let us pray that we will not be found guilty of these.

In the latter days:

Some shall depart from the faith.

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, *and* commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.” I Timothy 4:1-6

Some shall deny the faith.

“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” I Timothy 5:8

Some shall cast off their first faith with reference to widows.

“But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.” I Timothy 5:12

Some shall be seduced from the faith.

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” I Timothy 6:10

Some have erred from the faith.

“Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace *be* with thee. Amen. (*The first to Timothy was written from Laodicea, which is the chiefest city of Phrygia Pacatiana.*)” I Timothy 6:21

Some shall overthrow the faith of others by denying the resurrection.

“Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” II Timothy 2:18-19

Some shall be reprobate concerning the faith. They will be immune to the truth by their rejection of truth. No amount of logic or demonstration will convince them.

“Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was. But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” II Timothy 3:8-17

What is our responsibility concerning the faith?

Should we accept it? Yes, but there is more to it than that.

Should we preach it? Yes, but there is more to it than that.

“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. These things command and teach.” I Timothy 4:6-11

You see there must not only be an acceptance of truth and the preaching of the truth, but it must be guarded and held in a position so that it cannot be perverted or corrupted.

“Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.” Proverbs 23:23

When the Lord returns, will He find faith? Yes, we know He will because He promised, but will you be found in “the faith”? “I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8