

Monday, October 3, 2016 - Is your Christian life a Facade?

Do we fear the Lord? I'm not just talking a fear that comes from hearing a lesson related to how horrible hell is but a fear that comes from such reverence for Jehovah God that we do not want to fail Him!

He is God. He is the great "I Am," as he said to Moses in Exodus 3:14. "I Am" means that he is self-existent. Nobody made him. He did not come from someone else. He is not upheld by anything or anyone else (Ex. 6:2-3; Isa. 57:17; 40:18-25; 44:8; 45:5-6). God is unequalled. The brightest light is like darkness in his presence. All the world's riches put together are still impoverished poverty compared to him. All the wisdom of the ages is ignorance compared to his knowledge. All the skill of the craftsman is child's play compared to what he can do. He never gets old, sleepy, tired, weary or sick. There has never been a time when he has not been and there will never be a time when he will not be. He is the great I AM. He is incomparable, invincible and infinite: the Great I Am! He is unchangeable, unsearchable, and unequalled: the Great I Am! He is all knowing, all-powerful, and all wise; holy, heavenly, and high; spirit, supreme, and sovereign. He is the Great I Am!

Yet in light of the evidence of God's greatness, why do we continue to walk in the darkness; disobedience to the will of God? How are we different than the Israelites? They put on the facade of being obedient to God yet Israel had not practiced faith. They had practiced iniquity, evil and corruption (1:4), harlotry and rebellion (1:21- 23), soothsaying and idolatry (2:6-8), the substitution of evil for good, darkness for light and bitter for sweet (5:20), and false pride and drunkenness (28:1). Where is our faith? We must know and understand that real faith is faith in practice. You may say that you possess faith, but you are not telling the truth if you don't practice it. That's what James tells us in James 2:14- 26. James asked what profit is there in a faith that is possessed and not practiced when he said, "What does it profit, my brethren if someone says he has faith but does not have works?" He said that faith by itself, if it does not have works (if it is not practiced), is "dead" (Jas. 2:7). He tells us that the only way we can really know if we possess faith is if we practice faith. It is by our behavior that we show that we really believe and by our actions that we show that we have allegiance and by our walk that we show what is in our will and by our conduct that we show that we have conviction and by our practice of faith that we show a genuine possession of faith. For what you say to be true, what you say you must do.

We must also walk in the light of the Lord as taught in 1 John 1:5-7. Ephesians chapters 4 and 5 make it clear that walking in the light means that we live lives of holiness, godliness, and righteousness.

This extends outside the four walls of the church building. Our God knows what is in our heart and those around us know who we truly are.