**Easter 2024 – John 20:29; 1 Pet. 1:8 - 9**

*Jesus said, because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see and yet believed*

*Though you have not seen Him, you love Him and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls*

**Focal Truth: Faith in Jesus Christ is believing in the One we have not seen!**

Observations

1. Faith in Jesus is not **seeing & believing** – it is **hearing & believing**
2. Faith is not the result of seeing God – Thomas & the Jews

*Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe – John 20*

*What then do you do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do you perform? John 6:30*

1. Hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ leads to faith in Jesus Christ

*How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent?* ***So faith come from hearing, and hearing by the word concerning Christ*** *– Rom. 10:14 -17*

1. Faith is **loving** Jesus Christ whom we have not seen – 1Pet. 1:8

*though you have not seen Him, you love Him…*

1. Believers in Jesus love Him by obeying Him

*If you love me, you will keep my commandments*

1. Believers in Jesus love Jesus more than anyone in the world
2. Believers in Jesus love Jesus with all their heart, mind & strength

**Consider**

1. Loving Jesus is **desiring Him**
2. Loving Jesus is **praising Him**
3. Loving Jesus is **trusting Him**

*as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name – John 1*

1. Faith is **believing** in Jesus Christ whom we have not seen – 1 Pet 1:8

*though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him….*

1. Believers do not see Jesus “in the little while” of trials
2. Believers believe the promises of Jesus “in the little while” of trials
3. Believers trust the Lord living in peace “in the little while” of trials

*My peace I leave with you my peace I give to you, not as the world do I give to you let not your hearts be troubled*

*For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day – John 6:40*

1. Faith is **rejoicing** in Jesus Christ whom we have not seen – 1 Pet 1:8

*you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory*

1. Faith in Jesus Christ produces inexpressible joy in Him
2. Faith in Jesus Christ produces fullness of praise for Him

 *He brought them into his house and set food before them and rejoiced greatly having believed in God with his whole household*  - Acts 16:34

Things to Remember & Do

1. **Faith in Jesus Christ comes when you hear the good news of Jesus Christ!**
2. **Believing without seeing is the blessing of faith in Jesus Christ**

*Jesus said, because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see and yet believed -John 20:29*

1. **Confidently believing that Jesus is alive today brings salvation**

*For if you will confess Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved – Rom. 10*

1. **Endless life comes to those who believe in Jesus Christ!**

*for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life – John 3:16*

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**