

ANCIENT PRESENT FUTURE FAITH

Ancient Present Future Faith

Key idea:

God's people must have a faith that is rooted in the truths He has revealed in the ancient past, is experienced in a life of present trust and obedience, and that labors to build for the generations to come.

Key text:

Psalm 78:1-7

O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old — ³ what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. ⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, ⁶ so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. ⁷ Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Key points:

1. God's people must always have a faith that is rooted in the truths and practices God revealed in the ancient past to our forefathers in the faith.
2. Any individual, family, or church that does not consciously strive to remain rooted in the past will fail to survive into the future.
3. God's people must always have a faith that is vitally experienced in the present producing trust and obedience to God and His commands.
4. Any individual, family, or church that does not consciously strive to allow the ancient truth to nourish present faith and obedience will fail to survive into the future.
5. God's people must always have a faith that looks to and builds for the future, making sure that the faith is handed down to future generations.

6. Any individual, family, or church that does not live with a passionate commitment to see the faith passed to future generations is radically disobedient to the heart of God and irrelevant to the building of God's Kingdom.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why is it important to keep our faith firmly rooted in the past? What is the danger of not consciously keeping my faith and practices rooted in the past - both God's past historical acts, and also the ancient beliefs and practices of the Church?
3. How does our culture view the past, particularly the ancient past? How is it likely to respond if I firmly root my beliefs, practices, and moral life in the ancient past?
4. How can a focus on the ancient past lead to a dead traditionalism rather than a living faith? How can I protect myself from such a response?
5. How are the Pharisees an example of a group that adhered to the past but did not experience a living present faith? How do I know they did not have a living faith in the present?
6. How am I working to ensure the faith is passed on to future generations? How can I do this after my children or grown (or if I never have children)?
7. How can I see ancient present future faith in Daniel and his friends in the exile? How is each of these aspects essential to living faithfully as an exile?
8. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? Who can I encourage to worship this King this coming Sunday?

For Further Study:

[Living With A Multi-Generational Perspective](#) (November 4, 2007)

[Vision 2006 – Running the Race, Passing on the Faith](#) (January 15, 2006)

[Guarding the Deposit of the Faith](#) (September 6, 2015)

Preview of next week: The Kingdoms of This World and the Kingdom of God (Daniel 7)