

Text: John 12:42-50

Subject: The Problem of a Fearful Faith II

INTRODUCTION

1. A fearful faith has become quite common
2. Many of us have a less-than-ideal faith!
3. Our challenge must be to cultivate a strong and vibrant faith

APPRECIATING THE WORD OF THE LORD JESUS

⁴⁷ And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

⁴⁸ He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on My own *authority*; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

⁵⁰ And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

John 12:42-50

1. A reference to those who do not believe in the word of the Lord Jesus
 - a) People may hear
 - b) But not all would believe
 - c) But the Lord Jesus would not judge those who do not believe in Him
 - d) The 1st Coming of the Lord Jesus
 - i) He did not come to judge
 - ii) He came to save the world
 - iii) He will not judge those who do not immediately believe
 - iv) The Lord Jesus exercised much grace and mercy

2. A reference to those who reject the word of the Lord Jesus

- a) Rejection is not quite the same as not believing
- b) A person may begin with unbelief but may yet come to faith in the Lord
- c) A person who rejects the word of the Lord Jesus; that is a different matter
- d) In the 2nd Coming
 - i) The word of the Lord Jesus will judge the individual who rejects
 - ii) In the 2nd Coming, the focus is not salvation but judgment

3. Understanding the Person of the Lord Jesus and His word

- a) The Authority of the word of the Lord Jesus
 - i) This authority was given by the LORD God
 - ii) This authority extended to cover healing of people
 - iii) It was also extended to cast out demons
 - iv) It was further extended to cover all the Lord Jesus would teach

²⁸ And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

²⁹ for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Matthew 7:28-29

4. The personal understanding of the Lord Jesus concerning His teaching

And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak John 12:50

- a) The word of the Father is “a command”
- b) God’s word (“command”) is everlasting life
 - i) It gives life
 - ii) It gives everlasting life
 - iii) The word of God is alive Hebrews 4:12

- c) He teaches most consciously
 - i) He works very closely with the Father
 - ii) His Father gives Him the words to speak

CONCLUSION

1. The negative things of life must be dealt with

- a) Doubts
- b) Unbelief
- c) Uncertainty

2. The Challenge

- a) To appreciate afresh
 - i) The Lord Jesus Christ
 - ii) His teachings
- b) To appropriate
 - i) A courageous faith
 - ii) A deep and keen faith