

## Morning Worship

September 18, 2016

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Tim Waters

Piano — Marcia Hart

**As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.**

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Chorus # 228 *Oh, How Good Is Christ the Lord* Tim/People

Worship Prayer

Allan Lane

Welcome and Fellowship

Allan/People

Hymn # 242

*Pentecostal Power*

Tim/People

Missions Moment

*8 Days of Prayer*

Allan/People

Solo

Don Beavers

Hymn # 188

*The Great Physician*

Tim/People

Hymn # 184

*Jesus Is All the World to Me*

Tim/People

Offering Prayer

John Lewis

Tithes and Offerings

People

Offering Music

Marcia Hart

Children's Worship

Scripture Reading

Romans 4:1-8

Allan Lane

Message

*Faith from the Heart*

Allan Lane

Hymn # 281

*Speak to My Heart*

Tim/People

Prayer Concerns

Allan/People

Chorus of # 448

*Just A Closer Walk With Thee*

Tim/People

## Faith from the Heart

Romans 4:1-8

Institutions of higher education have a system of numbering their classes which allows the student to know the difficulty (in theory) of a class. As you know, these range from numbering beginning with 1 for freshman to 6 or 7 which is doctoral level. The courses numbered 100 are (most of the time) basic studies giving a basic knowledge of the subject. In a basic studies class you would use a text book designed for that particular level of study. Two years later, you may study the exact same subject, but this time there would, in all likelihood, be a different text which has a more in depth approach. The Bible is a book which can be use at any level of study. Its subject is faith, its object is Jesus. Whether you a looking for a 100 course level or a doctoral study, it's here. The Bible has everything for us to get our degree.

As we continue talking about matters of the heart, we see in our text in Romans that Paul is giving a basic course in faith.

### 1) The mystery of faith.

a. What Abraham heard .

b. What Abraham did .

c. What Abraham found .

Verse one asks the question, "What did Abraham find?" Of all the Jewish legacy, history, and "fathers", Abraham was considered the "Patriarch" and the "Father" of the faith. Heaven was equated with Abraham and was referred to as "Abraham's bosom." Every self-respecting Jew knew that Abraham was justified before God, so Paul asks the question, "How did Abraham do it? How did he get justified?"

Consider the early life of Abraham. Before God speaks to "Abram" in Genesis 12, Abram is basically living the life of a pagan. There is no reason to think that Abram was anything but a part of his godless, pagan society until he heard the voice of Jehovah God. How similar our lives are to his. Until we hear and respond to God's voice calling us to Him, we are as pagan as Abram was.

God's call to Abram was, "get up and go, leave it all and follow me." No word about the destination, no word about the route, no word about a lot of things, just the directive to go where I want you to go. Oh, and by the way, down the road sometime, you'll be given a huge reward. Now, Abram was no spring chicken. When this happened he was 75 years old. Can you imagine the conversation between him and Sarai? Men, can you imagine offering that news to your bride? "Honey, God told us to move."

And her response: "God? Who? What? Where?"

"Ah, He didn't tell me the where, He just told us to go."

"What have you been drinking? Have you lost your mind!?"

"Honey, God said that if we do this, that He will do some great things in our behalf."

Okay, what would you have said? Candidly, we try to put such a spiritual spin on the understanding of Biblical characters like Abram that we forget they were human and did not have the benefit of reading the end of the story. Would you have trusted?

It is a sad day when we cannot or will not trust God completely? We tend to want things spelled out for us. Yet, we claim to walk by faith, not by sight. Faith 101 tells us that we follow God at His Word.

Now return and consider again the question, "What did Abraham (Abram) find?" Here is the answer, "He found a God, the God, and Jehovah God, whom He could totally and completely trust. Because of His person encounter with Jehovah, he felt no reservations, no doubts, and not fears. He knew that whatever God wanted to do would be better than what "he (Abram)" could ever do for himself.

Have you discovered this mystery which Abraham has found? Have you encountered the God who is totally trustworthy? Can you trust Him with your today, your tomorrow, your mistakes, your family, your finances, your schedule? Faith is a matter of trust, complete and total trust. This is the mystery.

## **2) The myth of faith.**

There is a cultural myth, addressed by the Apostle Paul, which is doing much harm to the body of Christ today. It is robbing the life out of denominations, churches, and even believers. The myth is this; "I can do 'something', 'work hard enough', or 'work long enough' to earn my way to heaven and be "right" in the eyes of God.

Paul tells us in verse 2 that if Abraham was made right (justified) before God by works, then he would have a reason to brag and Paul has just forbidden boasting by the believer. The phrase "not before God" could mean several things, but here are a couple of other translations, "this is not God's view", "God knew better." Even though Paul would write the Romans before He wrote the Ephesians, he knew that eternal life is and was a gift from God through faith in Jesus (Romans 6 and Ephesians 2).

### **a. You can't earn it.**

Today we have the entire Bible and we understand the teaching that eternal life is the gift **of** God so that no one has anything to boast about. If you are on your way to heaven this morning, you have no reason or right to look down on someone who doesn't because your eternity was a gift to you bought by the precious blood of Jesus. And, remember, that it is not just the gift that God gives - it is the gift of God. The gift is God Himself.

**b. You can't lose it.**

There is nothing you can do to get it and there is nothing you can do to lose it once you have it (the secret is; you will not ever desire to lose it once you possess the gift). Through the work of the Holy Spirit, God speaks to your heart, tells you what you already know about yourself (that I am a sinner), and then offers forgiveness, cleansing, and redemption. Your part is to simply say yes.

**c. You can miss it.**

Don't miss this; although once you truly possess it, you cannot "lose it," you most assuredly can "miss it." The Bible is replete with words of admonition about this. Paul writes to the Thessalonians, "don't quench the spirit", "don't grieve the spirit", or "don't put off the spirit." Why? Because David tells us that the "Spirit of God will not always work with man." When God touches your heart, you must respond in, by, and through faith. In finding the God you can completely trust, you must continually do so.

**3) The mechanics of faith.**

I enjoy knowing how things work. The workings of faith are intriguing. We see it in the illustrations Paul gave us.

**a. The example of Abraham .**

Paul quotes Genesis 15:6 when he writes, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness." Consider this truth; the belief Abraham expressed in God was so strong that, upon God's Word, he was willing to take action without asking question. Remember, it's a matter of trust, not works. Yet, his belief was so fervent that he took action based on his belief. Abram believed God so much that he moved his family, that he risked his life, and that he offered his son of promise, Isaac. The model of a believer is Abram who held nothing back from God.

**b. The example of David .**

David says the same thing. He tell us that God gives us a "blessing" (salvation, faith) apart from works. We believe, God responds. We give Him our heart, soul, minds and strength.

**c. The example of our faith .**

God knows where we are in our faith. He knows if we offer it all or if we "hold back." Truthfully, when God puts His finger on your heart and begins to work on you, He allows you to make a choice. God speaks about the sin in your life, your unbelief, your broken relationship with Him, your need for a Savior, and through the Holy Spirit, He urges you to repent, come to Him, believe, and let Him change your life. At this point, as incredible as it may sound, you have a choice. A person can hear, heed, and respond to His voice as He has offered or fashion another response. Just beware; any response which you fashion will leave you wanting. A walk to the altar, repeating a prayer, getting immersed in the baptismal waters, or even joining the church, while all are good and expected, will not suffice in this matter of faith.

The lives of both Abram (Abraham) and David teach us that the life of faith is a life which demonstrates faith by action. It is not a matter of taking action to get faith, rather it is because you have faith you take action. James and Paul mesh right at this point. In fact, James goes so far as to say that you may claim to have faith, but if your faith does not lead to action, life change, ministry, service, and love, then it is probably not an authentic faith.

**4) The meaning of faith.**

What exactly is the "meaning of faith?" If you haven't already in your life, you may someday begin to ask yourself the question, "What is the meaning to life? Or why am

I here?" This is as natural as breathing. But what is the meaning of faith? Coming to God through faith in Christ means that sins are dealt with.

When we believe, God takes action and credits our personal, spiritual account with righteousness. The word "credited" in verse 3 and 6 is the exact same word used in verse 8 where it says, "never charge" with sin.

**a. God deals with our sins .**

**b. God takes action .**

**c. God credits our account .**

On the ledger sheet of our lives we have run up quite a bill of sin. It's the very natural thing to do. Our account is due and we don't possess the currency to pay it. Nothing we can do will satisfy.

So God offer us a way to settle the debt. We recognize our need, we go to the one who can resolve the issue (that would be Jesus), we trust Him completely, He takes the currency out of the bank of His blood, and applies it to our account. He then stamps our account, "the price has been paid."

David says it best in this quote from Psalm 32. Our lawless acts of disobedience are forgiven (this means "released" or "let go" – thrown as far as the east is from the west), are covered (they are concealed – dropped in the sea of forgetfulness), and are not "charged against" (means not listed, read, or brought up ever again). In God's accounting; the account is settled, cleared, paid off, and kept active for future transactions. Our faith and trust in Jehovah God makes the difference. That faith is not brought about by action, but rather action is brought about by faith.

## **Conclusion**

Photographer Ivan Lester McGuire was an experienced skydiver. McGuire would jump from a plane with skydiving instructors and students while videotaping the jump, allowing the training to become more effective. He would make several jumps a day with different instructors and trainees.

On April 2, 1988, McGuire made three jumps. The first one went according to schedule. On the second, he forgot to put on his chute. Fortunately one of the other parachutists brought it to his attention before he boarded the plane.

On the third jump McGuire made the same mistake when he boarded the plane, but no one noticed. The photographer, 35, made the jump, and fell 10,000 feet to his death while filming an instructor and student.

After viewing the tape McGuire made on that last jump, investigators said it appeared McGuire had been reaching for the release pin of a parachute that wasn't there. He videoed himself knowing he was falling to his death. McGuire's videotaping may have caused confusion since the harness McGuire wore for the video equipment is similar and has the same feel as that of a parachute.

The Bible teaches us these truths: 1) We must have faith to please God; 2) We are saved by grace through faith; and 3) Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Not trusting in Jesus Christ for eternity is like jumping from a plane without a parachute. Won't you ...

***Place Your Faith in God!***

***Don't Come Up Short***

How many times has this happened to you? You stop by the grocery store to pick up a couple items, knowing there's only a \$10 dollar bill in your pocket. When you checkout the cashier tells you the total is \$10.45. Of course, you either write a check or use your credit card, or go home to cook something else for supper. There's nothing like coming up a little short.

A Post Office worker, at the main sorting office, found an unstamped, poorly hand-written

envelope, addressed to God. He opened it and discovered it was from an elderly lady, distressed because all her savings - \$200 - had been stolen. Knowing she will be cold and hungry for Christmas, she decided to petition God.

Having compassion, the postal worker told the others at his post office, and they all dug deep and came up with \$180 to donate. They delivered it to her by special courier the same morning. A week later, the same postal worker recognizes the same handwriting on another envelope also addressed to God. He opened it. It said: "Dear God, Thank you for the \$180 for Christmas, which would have been so bleak otherwise. P.S. It was \$20 short but that was probably because of those thieving workers at the Post Office." There's nothing like coming up a little short.

Several years ago AT&T fired then President John Walter after working for them nine months, saying he lacked intellectual leadership." He received a \$26 million severance package. Somebody came up short in that one.

A man showed up in the County Municipal Court after being ticketed for driving alone in the carpool lane. He claimed that the four frozen cadavers in the mortuary van he was driving should be counted. The judge ruled that passengers must be alive to qualify. He came up short on his passenger list.

According to the Knight-Ridder News Service, the inscription on the metal bands used by the U.S. Department of the Interior to tag migratory birds has been changed. The bands used to bear the address of the Washington Biological Survey, abbreviated, "Wash. Biol. Surv." until the agency received the following letter from an Arkansas camper:

"Dear Sirs: While camping last week I shot one of your birds. I think it was a crow. I followed the cooking instructions on the leg tag and I want to tell you it was horrible." Somebody came up short, but I'm not sure who it was - the Department of the Interior or the camper.

It's amazing some of the things we can do to ourselves and to one another. Yet when it comes to heaven and where we will spend eternity, if we try to get there on our own, we always come up short. Trying to get to heaven on our own merit is futile. Jesus paid it all. He never comes up short. Are you trusting in Him?

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

## **SJBA SENIOR ADULT REVIVAL**

**OCTOBER 2-5, 2016**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 4:00 PM CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**REV. PAUL DAMERY, MWSU CAMPUS MISSIONARY**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 10:00 AM MAYSVILLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

**DR. ALAN BROCK, DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS, LINN-LIVINGSTON ASSOC.**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 10:00 AM PATEE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**

**REV. ROBERT SHELTON, PASTOR, FBC PLATTSBURG**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 10:00 AM SAVANNAH FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

**REV. TOM WILLOUGHBY, NORTHERN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH, HOLT**

**MUSIC EVANGELISTS FOR EACH SERVICE: BUD AND BARBARA LEE**

A lite meal will be served following each service. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring a friend. You do not have to be a senior adult.

### **Opportunities For Service**

**Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan**

**Up-Coming Events.....**

**September 18 — SJBA Annual Meeting Green Valley Baptist**

**Church 4:00 pm**

**— Collect for food Pantry**

**September 25 — Diversicare 2:30 pm**

**September 28 — See You At the Pole**

**October 2 — Life March**

**October 2-5 — Senior Adult Revival**

**October 3 — Food Kitchen**

**October 6 — Grand Oaks Board Meeting**

## **GROW Team**

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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### **Sunday Nights**

We will not have Sunday Evening Service here tonight. Hope to see you next week.

### **Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study**

We will meet this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Prayer matters!

## **See You at the Pole**

Wednesday, September 28, at 7:00 a.m. local time, students will be gathering at their flagpoles, praying for their school, friends, families, churches, and communities. SEE YOU AT THE POLE in prayer for our generation! Please continue to pray for Those in the schools of our city.

### **Note from Jeanette**

Greetings. It's been awhile since I've sent along prayer requests. I was hit by a car in Cairo so was dealing with some medical issues. God is gracious, and I'm all healed up now.

Thanks for continuing to lift up the B. people.

Blessings, Jeanette

Saint Joseph Baptist Association

### **Annual Meeting**

Today, September 18, 2016

Green Valley Baptist Church

4:00 pm

Come Celebrate...

## **Life Day**

Walk, Life Chain, and Rally

**Sunday, October 2**

*See Bulletin Board for times and more details.*

## **For the Record**

**Attendance: September 11, 2016**

Sunday School..... 51

Visitors.....	4
Total.....	55
Contacts Made.....	7
Morning Worship.....	55
Children's Worship.....	14
Sunday Night .....	N/A
Wednesday Night .....	8

### **Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget.....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received...	\$ 1,493.32

### **Offering Received by Mail:**

Eric and Shelly Thompson  
Lula Singleton

### **September Counting Team:**

Larry McKahan and Mike Green

### **September Van Driver:**

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747 **before 8 am** if you need a ride.

### **September Birthdays:**

05...Nellie Reynolds  
12...Grant Schottel  
20...Elmer Mayse  
20...LoLeta Middleton  
20...Tim Waters  
22...Rachael Molloy  
23...Kenny Kirkpatrick  
29...Lindsey Rasmussen

### **September Anniversaries**

No anniversaries are recorded for the month of September. If we have missed yours in error, please let us know. Thanks.

### ***Prayer Requests ...***

Sarah Waters – surgery recovery  
Shirley Wilson – auto accident  
Maxine and George Ferbert—strength  
Donna Dunn—hospital  
Karissa and Matt Long  
Nellie Reynolds—strength  
Betty Campbell—healing  
Pat Puckett—eyes, healing  
Marcia Hart's Family  
Audrey Dugan—strength  
Tim Izer and Family  
Sue Higgins—regain strength  
Jim Winans, surgery recovery  
Alicia McKinnon  
Dakota Duty—  
Robbie Hutcherson, Loleta's son  
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter  
Children's Camp

LoLeta Middleton—strength  
Buddy Means—Mary Sharp’s nephew  
Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—  
Elvera’s daughter & daughter-in-law  
Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris  
Richardson’s sisters  
Henrietta Caballero—Brigida’s Sister  
Austin Chalfant—Abby’s nephew  
Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health  
Audrey Dugan            Bob Barquist  
Kathryn Beavers        Ann Riddle  
Louanne Laurence      Keon McKahan  
Jozy Winans            Leona Reynolds  
Kevin Duty              Kenny Duty  
Madeline Swink        Bobby Griswold  
Bill Haskins            Debbie Sands  
Brenda Burgess        Judy Anderson  
Carolyn Houts          Roscoe Lane  
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs  
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church  
David and Deborah Grace  
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People  
Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service people  
**Today’s Prayer Requests ...**

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**Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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**Five More New Families...**

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