

March 24, 2024

Sunday School Lesson: Living In Faith

Scripture: Acts 6:7-15

The Weekly Compass

Vessels Prepared for Every Good Work

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 11 The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful-- for he cannot deny himself. 14 Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. 19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity." 20 Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

2 Timothy 2:8-21 (ESV)

Prayer:

Dear Father, in heaven, thank you for waking me up this morning. Lord God, forgive me for my iniquities, and restore in me a clean heart. Help me Lord to stay fixed on You throughout my day. Help me Lord not to argue, gossip, and complain, because it could hinder others from seeing You and prevent me from hearing You, O' God. Prepare my heart for Your service God! I pray in Jesus' name, Amen!

Unifying Topic: When the World is Against Us

Main Thought: *(Some) stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.*

Acts 6:9-10 (KJV)

It's Game Time!

Game-time is a phrase coined to represent how well our training and preparations have been to perform a task, to run a race, or win a battle. In our preparations, we follow all the rules and exercise patience while awaiting a favorable outcome. Paul states, "An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules" (2Timothy 2:5 ESV). In our spiritual walk, when we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, it is "game time!" We must seek Him daily through prayer and reading Gods' word. Peter states, "...Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1Peter 5:8b ESV).

Therefore, when we wake-up in the morning, give thanks to God, and pray. Guard your faith, don't go about your day arguing, gossiping, and complaining, because it leads us nowhere. Matthew states, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33 ESV). Keeping God at the center of our lives, ensures the victory, and it ensures a solid defense of our faith. Let us be ready when people encounter us; strive to do good, no matter the circumstance. It's "Game Time!"

Questions:

1. How do we know when we are ready to defend our faith?
2. What can we do to show God we are a vessel ready for every good work?