

OLDTIME RELIGION – WHERE IS IT?

Luke 18:8
2 Timothy 3:1-9

In Luke 19:8, the Lord Jesus Christ asked that when He “the son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?”

As I survey the general trend in Christianity and happenings in the local Christian community of the Grace Bible Mission in particular, I begin to shudder and think whether the question of our Lord is not even now being answered today in the negative that He will not find faith.

And as we peruse 2 Timothy 3:1-9, we begin to see the fulfillment of prophecy at our own time.

We constantly sing:

*Give me that old time religion
It's good enough for me...*

But the question is this: As we survey today's Christianity, do we have any more traces of the old time religion?

Let us quickly look at the Old time religion and examine our own religion or is it Christianity and individually and collectively/corporately answer the Lord's question. It is my earnest and honest prayer that each one of us will be able at the end of

this message answer “Lord, even if You will not find faith in any other place, YOU WILL FIND FAITH IN ME thus echoing – You will find faith in Grace Bible Mission.

I. THE ESSENCE OF THE OLDTIME RELIGION WAS GENUINETY – ACTS 2:37, 38, 41.

- ❖ They had real personal encounter and experience with the Lord Jesus – They did not fake their salvation. They did experience change in their lives.
- ❖ They made a real about-turn to God from idols, fetishes etc – 1 Thess 1:9. They refused to bow down at the shrine of false gods and idols
- ❖ They maintained their stand again all odds – they stood their ground in the face of trials, tribulations, tempests, problems, persecutions and perplexities

II. THE EXPRESSION OF THE OLDTIME RELIGION WAS UNFEIGNED LOVE – JAMES 2:17, 26; GAL. 5:6.

Let the whole world see our faith in action – Col. 3:18- 4:1

- Wives – Col. 3:18; Eph. 5:22-24
- Husbands - Col. 3:19; Eph. 5:25-33
- Children - Col. 3:20; Eph. 6:1-3
- Fathers - Col. 3:21; Eph. 6:4
- Servants - Col. 3:22-25; Eph. 6:5-8

- Masters - Col. 4:1; Eph. 6:7.
- Brethren - Acts 2:41-46, 4:32

Let our faith begin to be manifest in our actions. Let love be without dissimulation. Let there be unfeigned love - John 13:34, 35. , Hebrews 13:1, Romans 12:9. In the Old-time religion family ties were strong which eventually extended to relationships in the community

III. THE EXHIBITION OF THE OLDTIME RELIGION WAS INTEGRITY WITH INTENCE TENACITY - Hebrews 11:32-38

- ❖ Noah who believed God at all odds
- ❖ Abraham who sacrificed only son
- ❖ Moses who "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season"
- ❖ Daniel and the 3 Hebrew children who chose to face lions and fiery furnace rather than bow down to idols and obey untoward laws.
- ❖ Peter, Paul, Mary Magdalene, Phoebe, Pricilla and Aquila etc
- ❖ The martyrs of the in the long history of Christianity
- ❖ The missionaries who spread the Word far and near
- ❖ Our own fore-fathers in the faith

IV. THE EXPLOITS OF THE OLDTIME RELIGION WAS UNPARALLELED SUCCESS - ACTS 5:24, 27, 28; ROM. 1:8; COL. 1:3-6.

- manifestation of God's power - Acts 4:32; 2:43
- magnetism of Christ's gospel - Acts 5:13
- multiplication of Christ's disciples - Acts 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 19:30.

CONCLUSION

*Faith of our fathers living faith
Faith of our mothers loving faith.*

Two thoughts or questions readily come to mind through these songs

1. Do I as a mother or as father have this oldtime faith that I am bequeathing to my children now?
2. Fifty years from now and our children are singing: "faith of our fathers", "faith of our mothers" and my children are thinking of me, what will be going on in their minds?

Do we crave for the exploits of the old time religion? What is your answer to the Lord's question? If we want the exploits of the old time religion, and our answer to the Lord's question is in the affirmative then we must face the realities of the essence, expression, exhibition and exploits of the old time religion.

What shall it be brethren?

Shall we all rise to pray:

Lord, give me the oldtime religion.

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Choir: Shine Your light on me

Old time religion - Medley