“Un-Faith”

Snakes and Ladders in the Christian Life

Romans 1:18-32

Un-Faith: The Opposite of Faith

- the Bible calls it “unbelief”

- un-faith is: not honoring God as God…
  - not fearing to disobey His commandments
  - not taking Him at His Word
  - not trusting His power
  - etc.

The Seed of Un-Faith

- if faith comes by <u>hearing</u> God's Word (Romans 10:17)
- un-faith comes by <u>suppressing</u> God's Word (Romans 1:18, John 17:17)

- suppressing happens through unrighteousness:
  - wicked deeds
  - foul words
  - unwholesome thoughts
  - selfish motives
- suppressing occurs in our conscience

The First Steps of Un-Faith

- go all the way back to how sin began on earth

- Genesis 3:1
- "Did God *really* say…?!"

- <u>the result</u>: despite God manifesting His power so clearly in creation, they don't see it (Romans 1:20)
- <u>the reason</u>: they knew God, but did not honor and worship Him as God (Romans 1:21)

Snakes and Ladders

- the “boiling frog” death:
  - confused in thinking
  - foolish heart is darkened
  - fools who think they are wise
- exchange God’s incorruptible glory for the corruptible

It is a tragedy indeed when you live a life of un-faith, and God allows your prayer to be “answered”… you’ll get what you want, but it won’t be God!!

“God Gave Them Over…”

1. to dishonor their bodies (Romans 1:24)
2. to degrade their hearts (Romans 1:26)
3. to deprave their minds (Romans 1:28)

1. Dishonoring the Body

- Romans 1:24
- begins with impure lusts
- the exchange…
  - the truth of God: "you are not your own and your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit" (I Corinthians 6:19)
  - the lie: what you do with your body is your business
- honoring the creature over the Creator

2. Degrading the Heart

- Romans 1:26
- begins with an emptying of God's love
- the exchange:
  - the natural: healthy marriages as Christ loves the Church
  - the unnatural: all forms of perversion

3. Depraving the Mind

- Romans 1:28
- begins with not acknowledging God anymore
- the exchange:
  - the proper: true, pure, gracious, excellent (Philippians 4:8)
  - the improper (unrighteous): thoughts of

• greed and envy • murder and strife • deceit and malice • hating God and insolence	• gossip and slander • arrogance and boasting • disobedience to authority • inventing evil	• refusing understanding • untrustworthy • unloving • unmerciful

John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress"

"Then I saw that there was a way to hell, even from the gate of heaven."