7,000 Who Refused

When Elijah was discouraged and on the run for his life from Jezebel, he was reminded by God that there were 7,000 Israelites "which have not bowed unto Baal" (1 Kings 19:18). They were faithful, so he could be faithful as well.

Our culture is full of worldliness and wickedness just like in the days of Elijah. Immorality is at every hand. "Political correctness" prevails in many places. How do we as Christians respond? Do we withdraw and bow or do we advance and stand for the cause of Christ?

Who were these 7,000 faithful men and women. They were people who defied civil government when necessary (1 Kings 16:25,29-33; Acts 5:29). They were not influenced by the majority (Exodus 23:2; Proverbs 1:10). They are called a remnant of the faithful (Romans 11:4). They stood as an example of encouragement to the discouraged (1 Kings 19:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15; 2 Timothy 4:9-16). They were a testimony to the fact that God's people can indeed remain pure (James 1:27; 1 Peter 2:12). They were a reminder that heavenly citizenship is more important than earthly citizenship (Philippians 1:27; 3:20).

Will you be counted among the 7,000. Will you be a part of the "few" who are saved (Luke 13:23; 1 Peter 3:20)? Christian, always stand for what is right and never bow to what is wrong! Be the faithful remnant today! - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- It is hard to convince someone of your interest in the Lord's church by being absent from it.
- We can betray Christ by our silence just as well as by our speech.
- It is easy to lose interest in a church in which we have nothing invested.
- You can't change the past, but you can ruin a perfectly good present by worrying about the future.

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

June 10, 2018



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. - 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 - - James 2:19 -

Do you have the faith of demons? Before you answer, "No, of course not!" Consider a few things in the Bible about the faith of demons. James tells us in the scripture above, that demons believe in God.

Demons have faith. They have a belief. But, they have a faith or belief in God that does not obey him. You see, there is a faith (belief) in someone and then there is a faith that actually obeys that someone. Which kind of faith or belief do you have?

In Bible times, demons were "evil spirits" or "unclean spirits" that would inhabit a person and torment them. They were under the service and direction of the Devil, Satan (Matthew 12:24). One interesting thing about demons is that they are spoken of as having faith in God and Jesus.

As noted above, demons have faith in God (James 2:19). The problem, as pointed out by James, is that demons have a dead faith. They have a faith that does not show itself in active good works (James 2:14-26). They have a faith, but it is not a living, perfect, active, and saving faith.

Consider now a few scriptures that speak of the right kind of active, working faith that we are to have: "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but <u>faith</u> working through love." (Galatians 5:6)

"constantly bearing in mind your <u>work of faith</u> and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father." (I Thessalonians 1:3)

"To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and <u>the work of faith with power</u>" (2 Thessalonians 1:11).

It is clear from these scriptures that we are to have a working, obedient faith. But, when we turn to the gospel accounts of demons, we see that they had a different kind of faith. Let's take a look at the faith of demons.

First, demons believed in one God and shuddered. In Mark 5:7 we read this about a demon: "and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore you by God, do not torment me!"

Demons are wiser than many today who are atheists (Psalm 14:1) or polytheists (Exodus 20:3). Why then are demons lost? The answer is found in the words of the apostle Paul: "They profess that they know God; but by their works they deny him" (Titus 1:16).

Second, demons believed in the deity of

Jesus. In Mark 1:24, we read this about a demon: "What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God!"

Demons are wiser than many today who do not believe that Jesus was the Christ. They believe Jesus was just a man (John 1:1,14,18; 9:22). Why then are demons lost? The answer is found again in Paul's words: "Holding a form of godliness, but having denied the power thereof" (2 Timothy 3:5).

Third, demons believed in coming torment. In Matthew 8:29, we read this about demons: "And they cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

Demons are wiser than many today who do not believe in hell. Today, many believe "hell" is just a curse word you say (Mark 9:47-48). Why then are demons lost? They are like Felix who was "terrified" but did not obey (Acts 24:25).

Friend, do you believe God, but not enough to obey him (Hebrews 11:8)? Do you accept a truth about Jesus, but not a command from Jesus (Luke 4:46)? Do you fear coming torment, but not enough to change your life right now (Heb. 10:31)? You just might have the faith demons.

- Chris Reeves -