

"Dealing With Doubt"

Genesis 15

We could divide the world into three kinds of people: **1st** Those who have doubted. **2nd** Those who haven't doubted yet will. **3rd** Those who are brain dead. (Lee Strobel) (Matt. 22:37; 2 Tim. 1:12; 1 Thess. 5:21; 1 Pet. 3:15)

Our tendency is to deal with doubt in one of two extreme ways: Condemn doubt or Condone doubt. But, the Bible teaches us to Challenge doubt. (Psalms; John the Baptist John 1:29, 34, Luke 7:20-28; Doubting Thomas John 20:24-28)

The Inevitability of Doubt

Verses 1-8

1) Doubt will always be to some level in everyone's life.

C.S. Lewis – "Now that I am a Christian I do have moods in which the whole thing looks very improbably; but when I was an atheist I had moods in which Christianity looked terribly probable."

2) The opposite of faith is NOT Doubt, but unbelief.

3) Doubt is asking honest questions, unbelief is refusing to hear the answers. (John 3:19)

4) Christianity is coming to God with all my doubts and questions. (Jer. 29:13; Matt. 7:7-11; Heb. 11:1, 6)

The Construction of Doubt

1st Objection: (vv 2-3) Doubting God's Character.

2nd Objection: (v8) Doubting My Character.

We doubt because we don't trust God and we don't trust ourselves.

The Deconstruction of Doubt

Verses 9-21 Background: Abraham lived in an oral (storytelling) culture. They made contracts by acting them out. Cutting an animal in half and walking between the pieces in essence was saying if I don't fulfill my vow according this contract may I be cut up like this animal. Notice who walks between the pieces and who doesn't walk between the pieces. A smoking fire pot and a blazing torch represented God's presence. This is a one sided covenant: God is saying I'll be torn apart if I fail and I'll be torn a part if you fail.

1) My faith will always be opposed; therefore I must fight the good fight of faith. V11 (Birds of prey Matt.13:4, 19)(1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7; Matt. 11:12; Eph. 6:12; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Rom. 10:17)

2) God's eternal plan is more comprehensive than my finite mind can understand; therefore I must walk by faith not by sight. vv13-16 (Isa. 55:8-9; 1 Cor. 13:12; 2 Cor. 5:7)

3) God is saying with His blood that He will bless me unconditionally with all that I need; therefore I must simply believe in Him. vv6, 17-18 (Jer. 34:18) (Isa. 53; Heb. 6:13-20; Rom. 8:31-32; Pro. 3:5-6; Heb. 12:2)

May 27

June 3

June 10

June 17

Youth Weekend!

"Religion Bites"

"Change Will Do You Good"

"Laughter"

Genesis 16

Genesis 17

Gen. 18:1-15; 21:1-7



Growing

May 20, 2007

desert breeze community church

- 1)** What is the point of Lee Strobel's quote on doubt at the top of your sermon notes? Often Christians are accused of "assassinating their brains" because of what they believe in. How do the following verses dispute this? (Matt. 22:37; 2 Tim. 1:12; 1 Thess. 5:21; 1 Pet. 3:15)

- 2)** What are the two extreme ways we often deal with doubt? Explain. God doesn't condemn or condone our doubts, but He challenges them. What does that mean? (Doubting Thomas John 20:24-28)

- 3)** Can a person have a strong faith and still have doubts? What is the opposite of faith? What is the difference between doubt and unbelief?

- 4)** Knowing that my faith will always be opposed what does that mean and what should I do? What does it mean to walk by faith and not by sight?

- 5)** How is doubt constructed? How does this covenant God makes with Abram deconstruct his doubt? What is this a picture of? (Isa. 53; Heb.6:13-20; Rom. 8:31-32; Pro. 3:5-6; Heb. 12:2) How has this Bible study helped to deconstruct your doubt?