

### **BEING A CONFIDENT CHRISTIAN**

January 25, 2012

Confidence plays a very important role in any successful endeavor. We have watched our favorite sports teams and on occasion heard a commentator mention that a particular player was playing with a lack of confidence. This, of course, meant they were not performing at the level expected. In other words, they were not having the desired success. The Christian life is no different; we must have confidence in order to have success. According to Webster's II New Collegiate Dictionary, confidence means "a feeling of assurance."

The Hebrews writer exhorted, "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward" (Heb. 10:35). The whole of this letter was written to encourage those that wanted to abandon their Christian faith and return to the Jewish religion. These Christians had lost their confidence or assurance in Christ and in doing so were giving up the future rewards that await the faithful (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

There are many today that find themselves in this exact situation. The specifics of their situations may differ from those of the first century, but the result is the same. If we allow the trials and troubles of this life to bring us to a point where we are willing to give up, we have cast aside our confidence in Christ. Paul told Timothy, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (1 Tim. 6:12). He was encouraging Timothy not to lose his confidence in Christ and to continue to battle the sin and wickedness of this world in view of the great rewards of the next.

The apostle Peter admonished his readers, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" (2 Pet. 1:10). He knew the danger that existed when Christians lost focus on the goal before them and allowed their confidence to waver. We were warned, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8).

Peter knew, from a personal standpoint, what happened when focus was lost and confidence was cast aside. When given the opportunity to boldly declare his faith in Christ, he instead chose to deny the Lord three times (Mk. 14:72). Fortunately for Peter, he was able to regain his confidence and continue to faithfully follow the Master until the conclusion of his earthly life. However, it is not always the case that one is able to regain their lost confidence and return to the Great Shepherd's fold.

We should always pray that God blesses our efforts and that we can continue to have great confidence in our Christian lives. Never forget the words of Paul, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7). Let us embrace the great blessings that God has given us through His Son and live for Him always. Our confidence in His truth along with our obedience to it will carry us through the hard times of this life into the great joys of the next. Never allow that confidence to waver, and always have faith in the salvation God has given us. John said, "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments" (1 Jn. 2:3).