

**November 9<sup>th</sup>**

*For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. -Hebrews 4:2*

What if all of the rarest and most valuable jewels in the world were placed in one safe? And what if that safe were given to you? Only one thing would be more valuable than that safe: its combination. Even if such a priceless safe were in your possession, but you lacked its combination, it would effectively be worthless to you. The writer to the Hebrews points to a similarly crucial factor in the fourth chapter of his letter. Looking back to the days of Moses, to the time after the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, the author of Hebrews alerts his readers to the root cause of the people's eventual demise in the wilderness. Though the people complained and rebelled against God, it was ultimately their lack of faith that gave rise to these sinful symptoms. For though they heard the priceless message of God's 'good news', they lacked the faith needed to lay claim to its richness. But as the writer points out to his Christian audience, "we have had good news preached to us, just as they also". The Bible contains the rarest and most valuable truths in the universe. And though we may be able to explain these truths to others, though we may direct portions of our life according to this wisdom, we will never truly possess the wealth of these truths unless we actually believe them. It is one thing to know that Jesus is the priceless "treasure hidden in the field" (Matthew 13:44), but quite another to actually believe this truth and give up everything the world holds dear in order to lay hold of Him. It is one thing to know that God is always present, but quite another to believe this truth and steer clear of temptation because His eyes are always on you. Without faith, the inestimable wealth of Christ himself, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3), would be locked away from our grasp. Though such truths might be in our possession (in the Bible on our bookshelf or in the corners of our mind), they will never be credited to our account unless we possess the combination of faith. As followers of Jesus Christ, you and I must never be content simply to know. We must pray for, and seek to nurture through sacrificial obedience, that crucial factor of faith that unlocks the truths we hear, and gives us access to their unrivaled value and incomparable beauty.

Father, may the truth of your word not collect dust in the corners of our heart, but may it bless us as we lay hold of it in faith.