FREE FROM DOUBT
(Jas. 1:1-8)

Introduction:
1. Doubt is a gnawing fiend that devours our sleep, our peace of mind, our health; and as the Bible teaches also our salvation.
2. Doubt is the enemy of God's people because it deprives them of His greatest gifts of faith and hope.
3. Let us this morning consider how Christians can, and are commanded to, be free from doubt. Let us look at the instruction; the commands/principles; and finally the goal.

Discussion:
I.   The Instruction.
    A.   Doubting is equivalent to unbelief and/or a lack of understanding.
        1.   Webster defines "doubt" as = = to be uncertain or undecided; to tend to disbelieve; a wavering of opinion or belief.
        2.   In Jas. 1:6, James said doubters (***Diakrino*** = to separate, to desert, to be at variance with one's self, to doubt) should not expect anything from God. This same word is used in Matt. 21:21 (without doubt can remove mountains) and Rom. 14:23 (he who doubts and eats condemns himself).
        3.   In John 10:24, Jews asked Jesus how long He would keep them in doubt (***Airo-hemon-psuche*** = literally "raise our souls" = unbelief).
        4.   In Matt. 14:31, Peter doubted (***distadzo*** = doubt/waiver = unbelief) and began to sink into the water. Same word used in Matt. 28:17, where the eleven doubted the risen Lord.
        5.   In Gal. 4:20, Paul expresses his doubt (***Aporeo*** = to be without resources, to doubt = loss of confidence in) of the Galatian brethren. Same word used in John 13:22, the disciples were in doubt (did not understand) who Jesus said would betray Him.
    B.   That is why Christians are to be free from doubt, because they are to be fully assured and living by faith.

II.   The Commands/Principles.
    A.   Jas. 1:1-8.
        1.   (v6) If a person does not believe (doubts) that God gives to all liberally and without reproach he will not be given anything.
        2.   (v8) He who doubts is double-minded (trusting God AND self, world, etc.; cp. Matt. 6:24).
        3.   (v8) He (doubter) is unstable in his life, tossed here and there (cp. Eph. 4:11-16).
    B.   Rom. 5:1, 2.
        1.   Justification is by faith. He who doubts is filled with unbelief and thus not justified. The water of baptism does nothing without faith.
        2.   God's grace is only accessed by faith. Thus doubt hinders our access.
        3.   We stand and rejoice in our hope! Doubt replaces hope and joy with wishes and fears.

III.   The Goal.
    A.   That God's people might be set free (John 8:32)!!
    B.   That God's people might have life abundantly (John 10:10; Phil. = rejoice 12X in 4 short chapters written from prison!!) and life eternally (1 John 5:13).
    C.   That God's people might shine as light in a world of darkness (Matt. 5:14-16; 1 Pet. 3:15).

Conclusion:
1. Doubt is the opposite of faith, and we know how faith is obtained (Rom. 10:17).

2.	The more you study and meditate the stronger your faith, the less your doubt and more your joy (Ps. 1).

3.	Invitation.

MORE ON "FREE FROM DOUBT"

1.	Doubt is the difference between a good leader and bad one; between a good linebacker and a bad one.

2.	Doubt will keep a person from giving all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength to God.

3.	God has given us proof after proof after proof of His existence and His word, and in His love allows us to decide what to believe (Rom. 1:16-32).

4.	The seed of doubt is able to justify disbelief! Is sickness used to justify being sick? Consider Mark 9:24 and Luke 17:1-6.

5.	Doubt is used to justify negligence in the work of God.

	A.	Dedication to the work of the kingdom (Matt. 6:33).

	B.	Raising children in admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

	C.	Commitment to sanctification (1 Thess. 4:1-12).

	D.	Evangelism (Matt. 5:13-16; 1 Pet. 3:15).

6.	Doubt IS unbelief and the result of unbelief is death (Heb. 3, 4).

7.	The cure for doubt is faith/belief, and we know how that can be obtained (Rom. 10:17) and grown (Ps. 1; 2 Pet. 1:2-11, et al).

8.	For all of these reasons, doubt is a choice! It is a choice of frustration, worry, failure, and ultimately eternal separation for God. It is to choose hell (here and now AND there and then) and not heaven.

DO NOT DOUBT!