

## Bible Study ~ Wednesday, November 30, 2022, by Pastor D. Benoit

Theme: “**FAITH**”

Sub-Theme: The Family *Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*

Scripture: Ruth 4: 14

“And the woman said unto Naomi, Blessed *be* **The LORD**, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.” (KJV)

NIV ~ “Praise be to **The LORD, WHO** this day has not left you without a **GUARDIAN-REDEEMER.**”

[a male relative **WHO** was responsible for caring for a deceased relative’s possession, including land, houses, livestock, and even the widow. The well-being of the family... repays, recovers, saves, or exchanges something for something better—**JESUS CHRIST**]

Naomi (mother) and Ruth (daughter-in-law) faced ‘hard times’ after the passing of their husbands, but **GOD** did not forsake them. **FAITH** was their fortune!

**FAITH**, *pistis* (pis-tis), persuade, be persuaded, properly, persuasion. It’s a “gift” from **GOD**!

**GOD** *provided* them with a ‘guardian’ [defender, protector, keeper]. During these hard times our families are faces today, **GOD** *promises* not to leave us alone. Despite these problems of change and changes that bring problems... keep **The FAITH**!

### 1. The Family of *Yesterday*.

--the goals of life were family goals. [make the most of the day—hard work; freedom.

Do better than we...]

--the role of the individual was clearly defined; each contributed for the whole.

--Family ties were strong and intimate.

--the community was to the family what the family was to the individual members.

--**The Church** was (is) central in the community life with spiritual activities.

--the sanctity of marriage and the preservation of the home were protected by **CHRISTIANS** and Biblical principles.

--the care and nurture of children (brothers/sisters) and elderly was common responsibility of **The Church**, the School, and the Home.

### 2. The Family *Today*.

--a different attitude toward ‘marriage.’ It’s a “deal” instead of a “**SPIRIT**ual union.”

The “deals” turn out to be “dirty deal” and then “divorce.” (Matthew 19: 3-9)

--a lack of relationship and intimacy between family members. (Everybody does their own thing)

--Home is just a “base of operations.” Communication is little to none.

(You never told you felt that way...)

--We live in “isolation.” What happens to others is none of our business.

### 3. The Family *Tomorrow*.

--we must see the problems of today as “**SPIRIT**ual problems calling for **SPIRIT**ual solutions (answers). (Ephesians 6: 12)

--**CHRIST** is still **The Answer!** **CHRIST FAITH** is a “family affair,” but the family must be saved. (Joshua 24: 15)

--The Hope for us all is a **CHRIST**ian home. The home is the primary influence.

--We must get back to **GOD’S Instruction** to Families. Deuteronomy 6: 6, 7; 2 Timothy 3: 15)

We offer **CHRIST** to a changing world **WHO** is *Changeless*—Hebrew 13: 8)

How? **FAITH in GOD!**