

“By Faith”

Hebrews 11

Introduction

1. Hebrews 11 is filled with men who have accomplished great things in the history of God’s people.
2. But in the midst of all of these great accomplishments the writer adds Joseph
3. Of all the great things Joseph did by faith, the Holy Spirit only chose to mention that he gave instructions concerning his bones (see Gen. 50:24-26).
4. What are we to learn from this seeming small point?

Discussion

I. In the Chapter

- A. Able offered a better sacrifice “by faith”
 1. Why?
 2. Because the sacrifice that Able offered was such that it was
 - a. According to the will of God (Rom. 10:17)
 - b. And it looked forward to the better things that are in Christ (Heb. 12:24).
- B. Enoch was taken up by faith (Heb. 11:5). Why?
 1. Because He pleased God
 2. Since pleasing God requires that we look forward to His promises, Enoch therefore looked forward to the promises of God (Heb. 11:6).
- C. By faith Noah moved with godly fear and built the ark (Heb. 11:7). Why by faith?
 1. Because he was “*divinely warned of things not yet seen*”
 2. And Noah put his faith in God that God would fulfill what He had promised to do.
 3. Noah’s faith looked forward to the promises of God.
- D. Hebrews 11:13 clearly summarizes the motivation for every person mentioned in this chapter.
 1. Having seen the promises of God afar off, they were assured of them (see 11:1).
 2. When we read what these people did “by faith” we are to understand that they did it because they trusted in the divine promises of God.

II. Joseph’s Faith.

- A. Joseph also did what he did by faith.
- B. He trusted that God would fulfill His promises.
 1. What is mentioned of Joseph is not the greatest act of his life, but it clearly shows his faith.
 2. Joseph believed that God would fulfill his promises (he was assured).

3. Therefore he directed every aspect of his life in light of those promises, even the burial of his remains.
- C. Joseph knew that Egypt was not his home,
1. Just as Moses did.
 2. Just as Abraham knew Ur was not his home.
- D. Therefore Joseph was counted among those of whom it is said, they “*confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth*” (vs. 13).

III. By Faith Today

- A. Having all of these people as witnesses, the Hebrew writer then exhorts us to walk by this same faith today.
1. “*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:1-2).*
 2. We are commanded to walk according to the same faith that all the others had.
 3. Jesus too is our pattern in that he endured to cross because he looked forward to “*the joy that was set before Him.*”
 4. Therefore if we desire to be pleasing to God then we are expected to live our lives in such a way that shows we know that we are pilgrims in this life, that we are assured of the promises of God, that we “embrace them,” and that we look forward to a better home.
- B. Peter also exhorts us to have this same faith in that he says, “*Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Be Steadfast therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless (2 Pet. 3:13-14).*”
1. We have the same hope as those mentioned in Hebrews 11 (Heb. 11:39, 40).
 2. Therefore by the grace of Christ we have the ability to be as another Abraham, another David, another Elijah, or another Daniel if we put our trust completely in the promises of God.
 3. We have every motivation we need to be found without spot and blame; to be a friend of God and a man after God’s own heart if we walk BY FAITH!

IV. A Powerful Lesson

- A. This should be a powerful lesson for the “Christian home maker” and husbands.
1. The wife or mother who is laboring at home either with her children, preparing for children, or teaching younger women.
 2. Which home is your real focus?
 3. What nationality are you teaching your children to reflect?
 4. Those who walk by faith are of CHRISTIAN Nationality. What is yours?

- B. This should be a powerful lesson for those struggling with contentment.
 - 1. If you are not content with the physical things that you have then you are looking forward to something other than the promises of God!
 - 2. By faith Paul gave up everything for Christ so that he “may know Him and the power of His resurrection...if by any means (he) might obtain the resurrection of the dead.”
 - a. This was Paul’s prize (1 Cor. 9:24-27).
 - b. This is also our prize if we diligently strive for it.
 - 3. To know that we have an perfect, glorious hope with the Almighty God out to be enough motivation for any person who walks by faith.

- C. This should be a powerful lesson for all who seek to do the Lord’s will.
 - 1. When we walk by this faith then we will not be ashamed of the gospel that makes it possible.
 - 2. We will spread the gospel without fear and with great zeal.
 - 3. We will do good to all, humble ourselves, care for the needy and strive to be pleasing to God in all things, because these are the things that store up treasure in heaven (1 Tim. 6:17-19).
 - 4. We will have no fear of persecution, no fear of hurt feelings, no fear of rejection. God is all in all! 1 Cor. 15:28

Conclusion

- 1. What is the lesson we learn from Joseph? When we walk by faith in the promises of God then everything we do will be done to attain that eternal hope! (2 Pet. 1:10)
- 2. What is your hope? Where is your home?

By David Phillips

Avondale church of Christ
1606 Glen Willow Rd., P.O. Box 421, Avondale, PA 19311
(610) 268-2088, gospelstudies@verizon.net
www.avondalechristians.com