

Hebrews — 05/16/21

Faith Suffering for God

TEXT- Hebrews 11:39-40

INTRO – Some people are named, others are not. All these men and women, nevertheless, are among the giants of the faith. The writer sees the entire OT history as a record of victories of faith. Some victories were public and miraculous, such as deliverance from death; others were private and rather ordinary, such as “out of weakness were made strong...” and “wrought righteousness.” Some were delivered by faith; others did not escape, but were, by faith, given grace to bear suffering. The unbelieving world looked upon these believers as refuse, “cranks,” and “pests.” God, though, says of them, “Of whom the world was not worthy” (Heb 11:38). Each of them received from God that witness of faith (Heb 11:39).

having obtained a good report — Greek, “being borne witness of.” Though they were so, yet “they received not the promise,” that is, the *final completion* of “salvation” *promised* at **Christ’s coming again Heb. 9:28** *So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

“the eternal inheritance” Heb. 9:15 *And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

Abraham did obtain the very thing promised Heb 6:15 *And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. in part, namely, blessedness in soul after death, by virtue of faith in Christ about to come.*

Some better thing for us – Heb. 7:19 *For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God. Better than they had in this world,*

His object in these verses (**Heb_11:39, Heb_11:40**) is to warn Hebrew Christians against their tendency to relapse into *Judaism*.

2 Pe 3:16 *As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

2 Co 5:7 *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)*

These mentions pilgrims did not walk by what they saw but by what they heard.

1 Co 15:42-44 *So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*

They were given a promise

A country – a Fatherland

Gen 13:15 *For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. Thy seed*

Received not the promise:

Looked for a city

Heb 11:10 *For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

Rev 21:9-27 *And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.*

The lessons of this chapter are many, but perhaps it would be helpful to mention just a few. (1) God works through faith and faith alone. Exercising faith is the only way to please Him and receive His blessing. (2) Faith is a gift from God through the Word and the Spirit. It is not something we “work up” ourselves. (3) Faith is always tested; at times it seems that trusting God is foolish, but faith always conquers in the end.

That “better thing” has been described in Hebrews — the better priest, sacrifice, sanctuary, and covenant.

CONCL – Walk through this long corridor of men and women.

These persons were of every age and temperament;

Shepherds, statesmen, prime ministers, psalmists, poets, border chieftains, prophets, women martyrs-but they are all trophies of faith.

The variety is extraordinary, but the unity is undeniable.

Their circumstances and trials were widely different, but in all the crown of victory was faith’s watchword-*God is able*.

There is no kind of need, trial, persecution, experience, for which faith is not the sufficient answer.

It is the master key for every lock of difficulty.

Fit your case into one of the clauses and what once was, shall be again.

F.B. Meyer

Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice
Enoch was translated that he should not see death
Noah, moved with fear, prepared an ark
Abraham, went out, not knowing whither he went
Sara herself received strength to conceive seed
They desired a better *country*,
Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac
Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.
Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph
Joseph, gave commandment concerning his bones.
Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents
Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;
He forsook Egypt
He kept the Passover
They passed through the Red sea
The walls of Jericho fell down
Rahab received the spies with peace.
Gedeon, and *of* Barak, and *of* Samson, and *of* Jephthae; *of* David also,
and Samuel, and *of* the prophets:
subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped
the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of
the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight,
turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead
raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting
deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:
Others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of
bonds and imprisonment: stoned, sawn asunder, tempted, slain,
wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute,
afflicted, tormented; Wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in*
dens and caves of the earth.

Heb. 12:1 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a
cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so
easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*