

SERMON OUTLINE

'Who by Faith' - 1

Studies in Hebrews 11

Hebrews 10 v19 - 11 v3 & 12 v1 - 3

Key Words - "By faith....."

Key Text - Gal 2 v20. This is how Paul and all these characters listed in this chapter lived out their lives not least in days of trial, and trouble, and tribulation, and temptation - by faith.

Key Question - What is biblical faith?

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

Faith is absolute and indispensable necessity for pleasing God. See v6a. But what sort of faith is it that pleases God - that is acceptable to God?

A. THERE IS SAVING FAITH

This is what so much of the Letter to the Hebrews is all about. See 10 v19 - 22. See also Eph 2 v8 - 9.

B. THERE IS PERSEVERING FAITH

See v1. Note the conjunction "Now" following on from (taking us back to) what the writer has been speaking about, namely - the need to persevere. See 10 v36a.

Key Point - A truly saving faith is always a persevering faith. See v39.

Key Point - The writer was a pastor, and was seeking to encourage and comfort these believers who didn't think that they would be able to persevere to the end. Key Question - Just how were they going to persevere? Answer - by faith. See 10 v38. And in chapter 11 he goes on to give example after example of believers who have done just that - seemingly against all the odds.

2. THE OBJECT OF FAITH

Key Point - Biblical faith always has an object. See v1. Note - the phrase "being sure of" which comes from the Greek word 'hupostasis' which means - 'that which stands under'. The imagery is that of a solid foundation. AV - "Now faith is the substance....." What is this solid foundation - what is the substance of faith? Answer - It's God (all that He is in His unchanging nature and character), and (in particular) it's all that this God says to us (what He has promised us) in His word. For the Christian believer, not least in hard times, these are the great unchangeables. See 10 v36.

Key Question - What has God promised? See v1. Answer - heaven! We believe in heaven because God speaks about it in His word - and has promised it to us. See Jn 14 v1 - 3.

Alternative Reading - "Faith is the title-deed of things hoped for....."

3. THE PEOPLE OF FAITH

See v2 & 12 v1. The interesting point here in going on to speak about these people of faith is that the writer speaks in his first 'by faith' statement, not about Abel or anyone else, but about creation. (We believe that God created the universe out of nothing - by faith. See Gen 1 v1f & Ps 24 v1 - 2.) But why speak about the doctrine of creation? Answer - The doctrine of creation is always pastoral in its application. See Is 40 v28 - 31.

Key Point - We will persevere (go on and not give up) in the strength and power of the God who created the universe. What a thought - what an encouragement to go and not give up!