

Obtaining a Good Report

Hebrews 11:1-8

Introduction:

Here is a forceful appeal for the readers not to abandon the New Covenant for the Old, but rather to endure in faith. The faith that brings such endurance is that which focuses on Jesus, the Perfecter of faith, the author and finisher of our faith who himself has endured the cross and has sat down at the right hand of God the Father.

I. Requires Faith:

A. It's Concept: (Heb. 11:1)

1. It is essential to grasp the scriptural meaning of faith in order to understand how Hebrews employs it.
2. It is a response - It generally signifies "to trust, rely on." In the LXX, - found in Gen 15:6 and Hab 2:4, "to say Amen to God." Used in this sense, the word denotes a response to the faithfulness of God; it is a state not a decision.
 - a This faith is closely related to The word of God 4:2;; The promise of God 6:12; 10:23; 11:11. (See verses in Hebrews)
 - b It is the major focus around which the OT history is presented, first with the unbelief of the desert generation 3:7-4:11, and later with the faith of the elders Heb 11, our text.
3. It is an awakening - elsewhere in the New Testament, primarily with Paul, faith is awakened through the Word.
4. It is an instrument, as the power of God, is that which puts the believer in a wholly settled position about God and His word and perseveres

- a Faith is completely Christ centered Look at Heb 12:2 and the call to "look to Jesus".

B. It's Connection:

1. Is with firm confidence: The connection of this trust with God's Word is firm confidence in the fulfillment of God's promise
2. Is with the unseen: In our text faith may be defined as an attitude of trust by which the believer sees the unseen and thereby sets his hope on the divine promise
 - a The OT saints trusted that they would eventually be brought into the promised land and finally and more fully into the presence of God.
 - b The key to enduring is faith, confident trust in God's promise that "he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." looking to the author of our faith to lead us to our final perfection.

II. Requires Endurance:

A. Emphasizes a contrast: (11:27)

1. The verbal concept of endure:
 - a The permanent as contrasted with the temporary in God's plan,
 - b Endurance in suffering. remaining steadfast
2. The idea of permanence stresses two things:
 - a The immutability of God and divine things (Rom 9:11; 1 Pet 1:23, 25), and
 - b The permanent in contrast to the temporary.
3. Melchizedek and his priesthood are contrasted with the Levitical order. The former is eternal, the latter temporal.
4. That emphasizes the fact that the ministry of Christ has eternal significance. His New Covenant is the eternal covenant Heb. 13:20, making the first temporary.

B. Emphasizes hope and love:

1. A confident expectation: Heb. 12:2 remaining under with a confident expectation of accomplishing the salvation of those given Him by the Father.
2. Christ endured because he first loved us: (I Cor. 13:7 "love endureth all things.")
 - a The things we teach are to lead us to endurance. (Titus 2:2)
 - b The linking of faith with endurance is especially noteworthy in Hebrews, where faith is seen as the means of endurance.
 - c The readers, who have already endured suffering Heb 10:31-32, still have need of endurance for the race ahead Heb 10:36; 12:1, and for chastening Heb. 12:7.
3. In all this our attention is directed toward Jesus, who in carrying out his High Priestly sacrifice by enduring the cross is the Author, Finisher of our faith.

III. Requires Inheritance: (11:8)

A. Establishes a link:

1. Between the material inheritance of the Israelite to the spiritual inheritance of the believer.
 - a The major OT theme is that of the possession of the land promised to the fathers.
 - b The NT follows this, though the inheritance is a spiritual rather than a material one.
 - c Believers, under the New Covenant, are those who receive "the promise of an eternal inheritance" Heb 9:15. The New Covenant is superior to the old. God is here affirming that believers who were under the Old Covenant should not want the inferior over the superior, but vice versus.
2. The inheritance they saw from a distance was that unseen place, the presence of God. It is that place to which we have come, yet we are still pursuing it as we run their earthly race looking to the author, finisher of our faith.

- B. Establishes a legal right: (I Sam. 30:24 Heb. 9:15)
1. With the "called" who are also "the sanctified" Acts 26:18, and "made meet," Col. 1:12.
 2. The children of Israel received an external call to a new inheritance - this points back to Abraham being called of God to separate from the heathen to a land God would show him. This is the only thing that gave them a legal right to the land of promise.
 3. We have received an internal call (as some of them did also, Heb. 11:16) to an eternal inheritance.
 4. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law - Gal. 3:13. He paid the price.
 5. Therefore you have a legal right from the penalty of sin and the power of sin. (Rom. 6:14) Christ secured not only a future inheritance but also a present holiness.
 6. The blood of Christ has met every charge against us, it has purified us and sanctified us.
 7. Our legal right and our inheritance does not come through an inferior offering of the blood of bulls and goats but through the superior offering of Jesus Christ. (Heb. 7:22)