

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT ESTABLISHED 1786 MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

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THE HEROES OF FAITH

Hebrews 11

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Paul's desire for his Jewish brethren is that they may persevere in faith in Christ. If they are to perform the duties, endure the trials, and secure the blessings of the Christian religion, they must persevere in their profession of faith in Christ. He realizes that nothing but a persevering faith in the word of God about Christ as a faithful and able high priest will carry them thru the trials that have and will come upon them. He knows that nothing but a persevering faith will prove them to be real believers in Christ. He expresses the hope that they do not belong to them that drawback unto perdition, but that believe to the saving of the soul.

To encourage them to do what he wishes them to do, he now gives them examples from their own history of what men had done thru persevering faith. Men of faith have always had their trials.

The 11th chapter of Hebrews is the great faith chapter of the Bible. It is the master-roll of God's faithful army. It contains the names of those who were famous for their faith in God. In it we have,

I. THE BASIS OF FAITH: the word of God. Faith rests upon the fact that God has spoken. Without revelation there can be imagination, but no faith. There can be philosophy but no faith. Rom. 10:17 **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** How can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?

II. THE NATURE OF FAITH (1) Substance (confidence) used five times: Heb. 1:3 **Who**

being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. Heb. 3:14 **For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end.** II Cor. 9:4 **Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting.** II Cor. 11:17 **That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting.** Evidence (conviction) used two times: II Tim. 3:16 **All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.,** translated reproof. Faith is confidence of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. It is a state of the mind that makes it confident that what is hoped for will eventually be received; it is a conviction that God's word is true when it speaks of things that can not be seen or discerned by reason.

III. IMPORTANCE OF FAITH (2) "By it the elders obtained a good report." God has given a favorable testimony about men of faith. Men of faith have not been held in high esteem by the world -- they have been looked upon as cranks and fools by the world, but God gives a good report about him.

IV. EXAMPLE OF FAITH (3) Faith has

respect to things not seen, and things that cannot be known by human reasoning or human experimentation. Creation is an object of faith. It is one of the things not seen. Nobody witnessed it, so there can be no testimony of eye-witnesses as to how the world came into being. Human philosophy can throw no light on it. Science can not tell us. The only way we can know is by faith, and faith rests upon God's word. God tells how it was done and faith is a state of mind that accepts his word about it. The worlds were not made out of things that do appear, but were spoken into existence. Ancient philosophers either believed that the world as eternal or that materials were eternal. Apart from faith in God's word nobody has or can know how the worlds were brought into being.

V. ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE EFFICACY OR POWER OF FAITH (4-40) 1. Abel (4). Abel's faith had respect to things hoped for. (1) God gave to Cain and Abel a revelation of how to become righteous. He instituted a system of sacrificial offerings, telling them what to bring and when to bring it and how much to bring. Obedience to this command would make them acceptable to God and righteous in His sight.

(2) Both men came at the same time with their sacrifices -- at the end of days, or on the Sabbath. Cain was not irreligious - he brought a sacrifice to God, the fruit of the ground. Abel brought the firstlings of his flocks.

(3) God accepted Abel and his offering and rejected Cain and his offering. The man and his sacrifice are not separated; if his sacrifice is rejected he is rejected.

(4) Abel's offering was accepted because he offered it by faith. He brought what God told him to bring. When God instituted sacrifices He did not leave it to human judgment or human convenience or human pleasure as to what was brought. Abel took God at His word and brought what God commanded for righteousness. Cain rejected God's word about the kind of sacrifice and substituted his own pleasure. Abel's was a more excellent sacrifice than Cain's. The word translated more excellent means fuller, larger, more abundant. In commanding sacrifice God wanted that which would typify Christ as the lamb of God. He specified a lamb with its blood as a reminder and confession of sin, and as the way of righteousness. The principle that without shedding of blood is no remission was in effect from the beginning. Abel accepted it. In faith he brought what God appointed. Cain

could not have brought what he did in faith. If he had offered in faith he would have offered what God appointed, a slain lamb.

Abel obtained witness that he was righteous. God made known to Abel that his offering was accepted and that he was righteous. This was God's response to his faith. It was probably by causing fire to fall and consume the sacrifice.

Abel continued to speak after he died. His blood cried out from the ground against Cain. Heb. 12:24 **And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.**

2. **ENOCH (5)**. Faith respecting things hoped for. Enoch had a revelation of God. He was told that God would take him to heaven without dying. His translation was the thing hoped for, and faith was the confidence that he would not die.

He obtained a good report. God testified that Enoch pleased him.

3. **NOAH (7)**. Faith respecting things hoped for and things not seen. Things not seen were the flood and destruction of the world; things hoped for was salvation from the flood.

FACTS: (1) Warned of God about the flood. This was something that had never been seen. It could not be known except by revelation. No signs of a coming flood.

(2) Moved with fear and built an ark. He believed what God said and was filled with fear. God's word reached the inward parts. He did not turn a deaf ear. He did not brush it aside. He did not forget it. God has given warning of a coming judgment worse than the flood, but many do not take it to heart. It incites no fear. It is not believed. No fear of God before their eyes. Fear of God, the beginning of wisdom. The smart atheists today are calling believers fools and preachers who warn of an impending judgment, bunk howlers.

(3) Saved his house. His faith had great recompense of reward. It pays to take God at His word. He never jokes when He speaks. He always means what He says. He is faithful in what He says whether it is a word of warning or a promise. It is hard to tell whether some men mean what they say. You can hardly afford to take them seriously. They talk one way and act another way. Folks who treat God's word lightly will have to pay dearly for it. Noah's neighbors treated God's word as a joke and no doubt put their reasoning against it. They probably pointed out that there had never been a flood; that there

were no signs of a flood; that there was nothing in nature to cause a flood, and that it was a waste of time to get ready for such a thing. They probably made fun of Noah's boat. How did he know it would not sink? Nobody had ever sailed a boat. He could not demonstrate it. But after it had rained a few hours and when it was too late to make a boat; when the people began to stand in water up to their knees; when it began to rise higher and higher and the skies grew blacker and blacker, Noah safely housed in the ark and riding the waves; then it could be seen who was the fool. No man is ever a fool who takes God at His word.

(4) Condemned the world. He was a preacher of righteousness. He called men's attention to their wicked way of living. It took faith to do that. God had said the world was wicked and Noah preached it. He did not indulge in pleasing attitudes and flattering fancies. He preached what God told him to preach and in doing so he had to condemn the world.

(5) Became heir of righteousness by faith. Noah was saved not only from the flood but from the lake of fire. He was accepted as righteous before God. Noah must have seen in the ark a symbol of Jesus Christ as the ark of eternal safety from the destruction by fire. Noah saw the Christ thru the ark. Abel's lamb was a type of Christ in his sacrificial death; Noah's ark was a type of Christ as a place of safety from impending doom.

Just a Mother

*Sometimes I feel so unfulfilled—
 After all, I'm "just" a mother.
 I have no busy social life
 Or career like all the others.
 But when I start to pity myself,
 Christ is quick to show
 There's no greater job than motherhood,
 Even though the pay is low!
 When I look into little eyes
 So full of adoration,
 I know that I'm a member of
 The greatest occupation.*

PLEASE

If you are moving send us a change of address. It costs more postage to have one paper returned to us than to mail you the paper for a whole year.

THIS WE BELIEVE

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God without error as originally written. We believe in the Genesis account of creation and the fall of man. We believe in total depravity. We believe all are lost unless born again. We believe that we are saved by grace through faith and without works on the part of man. We believe that repentance and faith are inseparable graces and that all who do not repent and believe are lost. We believe in the security of the believer. We believe faith without works is dead. We believe all who have repented and believed should confess the Lord and follow Him in baptism and begin to seek to do His will. We believe that Jesus Christ organized a church while here on earth during His personal ministry (before Pentecost), and that He gave that church a commission. Matthew 28:19, 20. We believe that there are two church ordinances; Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that the church is local, visible, and that she has the Bible for her one and only and all-sufficient rule of faith and practice. We believe that the way to finance the Lord's work is by tithes and offerings. We believe that all churches should be missionary. We believe in the premillennial second coming of Christ. We believe that Heaven is a real place and that Hell is a real place. We believe in the Trinity of God, and that the Devil is a person, and that there will be two resurrections, one of the just and one of the unjust.

We have several tapes available preached by Doctor C. D. Cole. Tapes are \$1.50 each, postage paid. Order from the Bryan Station Baptist Church by these catalog numbers:

- C.D.Cole 1. Paul's Experiences of Grace
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