

Hebrews

Chapter 11, Part 5

I. Introduction

- a. The writer of Hebrews has taken this chapter to show forth many examples of lives of faith from the Word of God
 - i. Today's lesson will bridge that message and the application in the coming chapter
 1. His goal continues to be to point the Jews to whom he is writing to Jesus as the culmination of the Law
 - a. As Jesus' covenant is better than the old covenant, we are to live lives of faith which will be shown forth by our endurance in the things of God
 - i. The people in this chapter are just such examples

II. Commentary

a. **Verses 32-38**

- i. At this point, the writer of Hebrews basically affirms that he has given enough examples to prove his point
 1. And certainly, he has
 - a. Yet, he mentions several more people that he could discuss in great detail
 - i. There are many such faithful examples in the Word of God of people with an enduring faith similar to those already discussed
 - ii. He said that "*time would fail me to tell of...*"
 1. The history of the Bible is so full of examples of faithful people that there simply wasn't time to discuss all of them here
 - a. This is not to say that the many examples of faithful people didn't include some of their shortcomings
 - i. But overall, their lives were lives of faith
 1. This needs to be our goal as this is the example of Biblical, God-given faith
 - iii. "*...Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—*" (**vs. 32**)
 1. All of these men had some type of leadership position in the Word of God
 - a. Yet, it is their faith that distinguished them from other people
 - i. Simply, they believed God and He blessed it
 1. Faith is trusting God even when it is difficult to understand the consequences or when the consequences look bleak
 - a. That's the case with all of these men
 2. The first four of these are from the book of Judges
 - a. Gideon (**Judges 6-9**)

- b. Barak (**Judges 4-5**)
- c. Samson (**Judges 13-16**)
- d. Jephthah (**Judges 11-12**)
- e. All of these men struggled at times
 - i. Yet, it is their enduring faith that kept them going
 - 1. And, they are an example to use for that
- 3. David is the only king mentioned here
 - a. Obviously, David's life is a life of faith
 - i. From the slaying of Goliath to his instructions to Solomon at his death, David believed God
 - 1. He wasn't perfect, but still endured in his belief of God and His Word
- 4. Samuel
 - a. Samuel was the last judge and first prophet
 - i. Through a difficult time in Israel's history, Samuel remained true to God and His instruction
- 5. A number of other general characteristics of faithful men and women are mentioned in **verses 32-37**
 - a. Though we can think of some specific people that fit these characteristics, there's a broad view of enduring faith looked at here
 - i. Many of these things seem impossible – and they are, in men's eyes
 - 1. *"But Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'" (Matthew 19:26)*
 - 2. *"And he said, 'Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.'" (Mark 14:36)*
 - ii. Faith has an object, though
 - 1. It's not as though any of these people drew up their own ideas and then had faith that they'd come true
 - a. This is the idea of the modern Charismatic Movement or Word Faith Movement
 - 2. These people weren't looking for worldly satisfaction or goods
 - a. These examples believed God and His Word
 - i. They had faith that what God said would come to pass
 - ii. This is a far cry from the modern ideas of Word Faith
- iv. The world is not worthy of the people God has redeemed and called as His own

1. Yet, they are here to serve Him and to display his glory to mankind
 - a. We are trophies of God's grace whether the world recognizes it or not
 - i. The more they refuse to believe God's Word, the more guilty they become
2. Yet, these people didn't have the life of ease
 - a. Many of them lived as destitute vagabonds in this life
 - i. Our hope is of the world to come

b. Verses 39-40

- i. God blessed these people and even "*commended*" their faith as we can see simply from reading the accounts of their lives
 1. Yet, they never actually received the promises
 - a. So, we see more than ever that they pressed on towards the future even when the promises weren't realized in their lifetimes
 - i. This is the picture of enduring faith
 - ii. The Old Testament saints looked forward to the coming of Jesus
 1. They never saw Him, though they believed He was coming
 - a. We look back at the life of Jesus
 - i. It is through Him that both Old Testament saints and New Testament saints are "*made perfect*"
 1. This is something the Law could never do
 - a. The Old Testament saints realized this and died in faith as they looked forward to the coming Messiah