

Hebrews

Chapter 12, Part 1

I. Introduction

a. We have completed the “Hall of Faith” in **Chapter 11**

i. For a moment, let us review what the writer of Hebrews is expressing to his readers

1. The main thrust of this book is to show how Jesus is superior to the Law

a. That is, the new covenant replaced the old covenant

2. Salvation is by grace through faith (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)

a. Before using the examples of those that endured by living lives of faith, he references an Old Testament passage for support

i. *“For, ‘Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.’ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.” (Hebrews 10:37-39)*

1. This is a loose quote of **Habakkuk 2:3-4** combined with **Isaiah 26:20**

a. This is really more of an interpretative paraphrase of those passages

2. The point here is that true faith produces an enduring life which does not “*shrink back*”

a. Then he gave numerous examples in **Hebrews 11**

b. Today’s lesson applies the previous passage

II. Commentary

a. **Verse 1**

i. *“Therefore...”*

1. We often lay great stress on this word

a. We must figure out what the “*therefore*” is there for

i. “*Therefore*” always links back to something which has previously been spoken – normally the immediate preceding passage

2. Here, the writer is summing up the entire previous passage which links all the way back to the closing words of the 10th chapter

ii. *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...”*

1. Chapter 11 was full of examples of men and women whose faith endured until death

a. *“These all died in faith...” (Hebrews 11:13)*

- i. Those in **Hebrews 11** are good examples, but He is the perfect example
 - c. He is the “*perfecter*” of our faith in that He brings our faith “*to completion at the day of Jesus Christ*” (**Philippians 1:6**)
 - d. He is the “*perfecter*” of our faith in that His example carried faith through to completion in the grandest sort of way
 - 2. He endured because He focused on the “*joy that was set before him*”
 - a. That is, the salvation of His people
 - i. He “*endured the cross*” because it was the necessary means to save His people
 - 1. The runner endures the physical struggles of a race because there is a crown waiting at the end
 - 3. Jesus was publicly shamed in the way He was treated by men
 - a. Nonetheless, He endured because it was the Father’s will (**John 6:38-40**)
 - i. His endurance was rewarded by the Father by His being “*seated at the right hand of the throne of God*”
 - 1. Our endurance will be rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ
 - a. Let us follow the examples of the “*cloud of witnesses*”
 - i. But more importantly, let us follow the example of Jesus