

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**THESE ALL DIED IN FAITH NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE PROMISES,
BUT HAVING SEEN THEM AFAR OFF, AND WERE
PERSUADED OF THEM, AND EMBRACED THEM, AND
CONFESSED THAT THEY WERE STRANGERS
AND PILGRIMS ON THE EARTH.**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, JANUARY 31, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING: **HEBREWS 11:6-19**

Hebrews 11:13, These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 16: But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. As we approach the **Book of Hebrews**, we will find the first ten chapters reveal that Christ is better than the Old Testament rituals.
- b. The last section of this epistle is practical whereas the first section is primarily doctrinal. It shows that Christ brings better benefits and privileges.
- c. We need to keep in mind it was written primarily to Hebrew believers who stood on the threshold of two dispensations; the law that had come to an end and sacrifices were meaningless after Christ went to the cross, however, the dispensation of grace is where God is giving righteousness for our belief is now coming into effect. **Hebrews 1:1-3, God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2: Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 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; Romans 10:4, For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.**
- d. It ranks along with **Romans**, which is excelled by no other book.
- e. I want us to understand the teachings of the Scripture as it is rightly divided, and we must be careful to rightly divide the **Book of Hebrews. 2 Timothy 2:15, Study to shew thyself approved to God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

- f. **Romans 11:2** says, *God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. . .*
- g. It is clear in scripture that Christ Himself is the vine and Israel is the branch. **John 15:5**, *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*
- h. The church has not usurped the place of Israel.
- i. God has made promises to Israel that He will literally fulfill at His second coming. **Romans 11:1**, *I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,*
- j. We cannot take the promises God made to Israel spiritualize them and claim them for the church.
- k. **Israel is God's time clock** and there is a purpose for the Nation Israel in God's future program. We must remember that the clock runs when Israel is in the land.
- l. **God is calling out people for His name.** These people are called "the church," composed of both Jew and Gentile. **Acts 15:14**, *Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.*
- m. When this process is completed, God will start the first phase of His second coming where He will take His church out of this world. That is the rapture.
- n. At the second phase of His second coming, which is called the Revelation, **He will fulfill all the promises He made to Israel and the Gentile world.**
- o. There are some key themes from the **Book of Hebrews**:
 1. Christianity is more than a religion; it is a relationship with Jesus Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:17**, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
 2. To be victorious we must run life's race with our eyes on our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Philippians 3:13** *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*
 3. We can give our temptations to Jesus; He has already faced all of them and won the victory. **1 Corinthians 10:13** *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*
 4. **God desires His children to give strength of testimony to each other.**
 5. Only the blood of Christ can cleanse us from our sins.

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message January 31, 2021

3. NINE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- f. **But without faith it is impossible to please him.**
 1. **Hebrews 11:6**, But without faith it is impossible to please him: *for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*
 2. We cannot please God in the flesh, it takes faith. **Romans 8:8**, *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*
 3. Enoch has demonstrated this for us.

4. **for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**
 5. In the **Book of Hebrews** there is a great deal spoken of about rewards.
 6. One of these days the bride of Christ will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive our rewards based on our stewardship. **2 Corinthians 5:10, For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.**
 7. Salvation is a free gift and comes only to those who have a personal faith in Christ Jesus.
 8. Our rewards are based on our faithfulness to the task that God has called us to do. **1 Corinthians 4:2, Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.**
- g. By faith Abraham,... obeyed;...**
1. **Hebrews 11:8, By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.**
 2. We are to walk by faith and not by sight. **2 Corinthians 5:7, (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)**
 3. Too many believers want to walk by sight; we want to take the higher road when God is sending us down the lower road.
 4. In **Genesis 12**, the story of Abraham unfolds. He came out of Ur of the Chaldeans and went into Haran.
 5. God instructed him to get out from among his people. His people were idolaters.
 6. Abraham partially obeyed by taking his father with him and halted in the land of Haran until he got into God's perfect will. **Genesis 12:7, And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.**
 7. Everywhere Abraham went, he built an altar.
 8. The altar represents this man was all about worshipping God.
 9. We must always get our eyes off self and be obedient to the Preserved Word of God.
 10. Abraham worshipped God by faith and obeyed God by faith.
 11. **Worship of God leads to obedience to God.**
 12. **Then obedience to God leads to work for God; doing things that God wants us to do. Several Sundays ago we indicated there were three calls to the early disciples and they were, 1. a call to salvation, 2. a call to test their obedience and 3. a call to service.**
 13. We do not need to spend our time brow beating, gossiping, and being busybodies.
 14. The proper motivation should be to truly worship God and bring glory to the Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing else should matter.
 15. People who have this in mind are people who work for God and not work for self. **Philippians 2:5-7, Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant,**

and was made in the likeness of men:

16. **John 8:56, Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.** – This is the Lord Jesus Christ speaking of Abraham. How did Abraham see this day? By faith.
17. There is a word that is extremely important and needs to be ingrained in the hearts and minds of believers and that word is obedience. **By faith Abraham, obeyed.**
18. You cannot be obedient unless you are a student of the Preserved Word of God. You must bring the flesh into subjection.
19. As we do this, good things will happen.
20. This main verse is a tremendous testimony from Abraham as he was in the perfect will of God.

h. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise,...

1. **Hebrews 11:9-11, By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise 10: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 11: Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.**
2. This passage is interesting because after the hesitation by Abraham, he finally got in God's will and journeyed to the land of promise.
3. This was a place where he had never been.
4. God does something remarkable; He told Sarah she would have a miracle child. **Genesis 18:14, Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.**
5. Currently Sarah is ninety years old and was beyond child-bearing age.
6. This is the reason she laughed because in her mind it was a ridiculous thing.
7. When it come to God sometimes it might seem ridiculous, but God is always there; His strength and power, we can believe in.
8. He is indeed an awesome God.
9. Jesus instructs us we can be a tremendous help to mankind if we would just believe the Word of God. **Mark 9:24, And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.**
10. Confusion will go away. **1 Corinthians 14:33, For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.**
11. This man recognized he had a weak faith, but Jesus is there to strengthen us and our faith. **Nehemiah 8:10, Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**
12. Sarah received strength to conceive Isaac and he was delivered when she was past age.
13. Sarah represents the power of the strength of faith.

i. Therefore sprang there even of one,...

1. **Hebrews 11:12, Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is**

by the sea shore innumerable.

2. Although man would consider Abraham and Sarah dead as far as childbearing is concerned, God turn it into innumerable company. *the sea shore innumerable.*
3. This was the promise to Abraham and his seed. **Galatians 3:16**, Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.
4. Abraham and Sarah never saw the total fulfillment of this promise from God. **Hebrews 11:6**, But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
5. We can see it, because of the Nation Israel, God is true to His promise and He has not cast away that particular nation. **Romans 11:2**, God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, A brief reflection as to why God chose them is found in **Deuteronomy 7:7-8**, The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: 8: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

j. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

1. **Hebrews 11:13**, These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
2. Walking by faith will cause us to recognize God is God.
3. We do not question what He does and what He says. When He gives us information, we should take it and move on it without hesitation.
4. We are also stranger and pilgrims on earth as children of God. **John 14:1-3**, Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2: In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
5. God has given us exceeding and great promises. **2 Peter 1:4**, Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

k. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

1. **Hebrews 11:14**, For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.
2. When we have a testimony for Jesus Christ, and we believe Him there is nothing that is questionable to us in the Preserved Word of God.
3. We do not have to get the Greek for amplification; we just believe God as He

has stated it to us.

4. When we walk by faith and not by sight, it is amazing we have no trouble with, *In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.*
5. We also will have no trouble with the fact that God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life. We will have no trouble with being strangers and pilgrims on earth.
6. If we walk by faith, we are looking for a better place.

i. But now they desire a better country,...

1. **Hebrews 11:15-16, And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16: But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.**
2. Anyone can go back into the world.
3. This does not mean that one who is truly born again will lose his or her salvation. **1 John 3:9, Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 1 John 5:18, We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. 1 John 5:1, Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. These three verses makes it extremely clear that this is salvation of the soul and not the flesh.**
4. After we are saved, we have a choice; to live abundantly on the earth and walk by faith, or we cannot believe God and question everything that is to be done and be tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine. **Ephesians 4:14, That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; Philippians 4:8-9, Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. 9: Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.**
5. Abraham was truly a man of faith. He believed God; his faith was tried when he was told to sacrifice Isaac and he completely yielded and trusted God.

m. By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac:...

1. **Hebrews 11:17, By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,**
2. Notice the term "**only begotten son,**" – This reminds us of **John 3:16, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**
3. Isaac is called Abraham's only begotten son; he is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. This certainly could not be translated as the one and only son.
4. His conception was during the time Sarah's womb should have been dead.
5. **God can bring life out of death. What an amazing God we serve! Romans 4:17, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him**

whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

6. Isaac was the promised son, not Ishmael.
- n. **...God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.**
 1. **Hebrews 11:18-19, *Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.***
 2. God had Abraham to offer Isaac. What awesome faith Abraham had in God? He believed that God was able to raise up Isaac from the dead should the need arise.
 3. It was the end of Abraham's life; he had learned to walk with God, lean on God and accept God's will for his life.
 4. Abraham believed **1 Corinthians 10:13, *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.***
 5. Abraham was not asked to offer Ishmael; He was asked to offer Isaac the only begotten son.
 6. When Isaac was about 33 years old, Abraham was ready to trust God; whatever the test would have been.
 7. Abraham had to learn to trust God as God provided the promises for him.
 8. Abraham's life was not always smooth sailing. As you recall he had trouble with his nephew Lot.
 9. God moved them out of idolatry; He moved them to a place where they could listen to God.
 10. God tells us to get away from our parents if need be and serve Him. **Genesis 2:24, *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*** Abraham and Sarah certainly provided a Christian home and instructed their children in the way of the Lord by example.
 11. I was asked by my son to speak to my other son about something. My comment was he is grown, and I do not interfere in the lives of my grown children.
 12. We are instructed by God to get out of their business. God clearly moved Abraham from a home of idolatry. **Joshua 24:2, *And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.***
 13. Abraham did make some mistakes; but all of us do. **Thank God our salvation is not based on perfection in the flesh.**
 14. We must be willing to get out of other folks business and concentrate on the true and living God.
 15. As a result of that, God will provide.
 16. It is amazing God asks Abraham to sacrifice his only begotten son; without hesitation Abraham was ready to do that. God intervened and saved Isaac's life by providing a ram for the sacrifice. **Genesis 22:8, *And Abraham said, My***

son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. Genesis 22:13, And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

17. Abraham's faith led to obedience in his life. So, it is said in **James 2:23**, And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

18. Do you believe God, my friend?

4. CONCLUSION

- a. There is only one way to Heaven. That is by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. **Proverbs 16:25**, There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.
- b. **Romans 3:23**, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- c. **Romans 3:10**, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
- d. **Romans 10:9-10**, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- e. Would you please stand?

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