

Hebrews 11 – Hall of Faith

Background

- a) Only book of the Bible were not sure of the author
 - a) Paul, Apollos, Barnabbas, Luke, Timothy, Acquilla and Priscilla
 - b) General Theme is that Christ is “Better than” the Old Testament Prophets, Sacrifices, Priesthood, Covenant
 - a) So the New Testament replaces or supercedes the Old Testament in these areas
 - c) Hebrews contains several admonitions against falling away from faith (3:7-19, 6:4-8, 10:26-39)
 - a) This is how the author dealt with the people of God going into apostasy
 - d) Now Hebrews 11 begins with an exhortation to live by faith
 - a) The key to not falling away (Rom. 1:17, Hab. 2:4)
- 1) Definition of faith (v. 1)
- a) Faith is a gift from God the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:8-9)
 - b) It is not something I can muster myself apart from Him
 - c) Since faith is from God – It brings Assurance and Conviction
We believe as true what we cannot see and what we hope one day will occur
- 2) Faith is the means for the men of old (Old Testament) found approval (v. 2)
- a) The Old Testament people of God are the examples of faith for us today
 - b) They had to believe the promise of God’s Messiah strictly by the Scripture given (Gen. 3:15)
 - c) They did not have a written record of Jesus as we do
So Heb. 11 ends with our faith should be better than their faith (v. 40)
These Old Testament saints stand as a cloud of witnesses to us to press on (12:1)
- 3) Faith believes that God created everything there is out of nothing (v. 3)
- a) God simply spoke His Word and everything appeared
 - b) It did NOT happen by the Big Bang Theory and Evolution
One major proof of the existence of God is the universe with it’s vastness and complexity all being held in perfect order (Ps. 19:1, Gen. 8:22)
When the Scripture says that the Word became Flesh (John. 1:14) – Then everything that God said and did through His Word means that Jesus is fully God and is exactly Who God is and what God does (Heb. 1:3-9)
- 4) The first example of People living by faith is Abel (v. 4)
- a) He does not start with Adam & Eve!
 - b) They had faith in what God had promised (Gen. 4:1)
 - c) But their lives are not an example of living by faith – Rather what they were as recipients of God’s Grace (3:21)