

Now the just shall live by faith; But if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. Hebrews 10:38-11:3

I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected. ² Then the LORD answered me and said:

"Write the vision And make *it* plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it.

³ For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.

⁴ "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:1-4

There are three things in Hebrews 10:38-11:3 that I would emphasize this evening. There are many more things than three, but there are these three things and they are very important things, things that occupy the minds and hearts of men in all the ages of the world. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all, is the theme that we have been attempting to understand more fully in these sermons and this is the last one. "The God of Light in Faith." It is the light of God that shines in faith. It is not faith that shines, but God shines in faith. This is an important point. It is not faith in itself that gives understanding, but God gives understanding to those who believe. In human faith, man tries to kindle his own sparks; in biblical faith, the light of God shines. There is all the difference in the world. The first brings darkness; the second brings overwhelming light.

So the three things are: First: The God of Light shines in Hope; Second, The God of Light Shines in Redemption; Third, The God of Light Shines in All.

- I. First: The God of Light shines in Hope by Faith; The Just Shall Live by Faith:
 - A. The reference was to Habakkuk, Chapter Two. It was Habakkuk's bitter task to warn Judah of the coming of the Babylonians and the complete destruction of the nation. The Babylonians were like fishers who spread their nets and caught everything in sight; emptied their nets and filled them again.
 - B. This was especially hard for Habakkuk, because the Babylonians cared for neither God nor man. They were so happy with themselves and so lifted up with pride that they thought it was their own strength and power that did it. So they, as it were, sacrificed to their nets, and burned incense to their drag, because they are made fat and arrogant.
 - C. But Habakkuk had hope: 2:12-14. Is it not of the Lord? Is this not pointing to the great triumph of God and the Glory of the Lord. vs. 14. Chapter 3:17-19

- D. St. Peter on the Day of Pentecost announced the complete triumph of Christ the Lord. Acts 2:32-36. He reigns until his enemies be made his footstool. There would be complete moral, spiritual, and physical victory, wrung out of the blood of Christ and the blood of the saints.
- E. This is the hope of the child of God: 1John 3:1-3 "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."
- F. Thus is fulfilled the promise of Romans 8:22-25: ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³ Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance."

II. Second, The God of Light Shines in Redemption; WHAT IS THIS LIGHT? Heb. 11:2. By it the elders obtained a good report.

A. The light of justification: Heb. 11:2

- 1. Elders, the men and women of faith in the Old Testament. Good report: a good testimony from God. They were justified. Jesus said if you confess me before men, I will confess you before my Father in heaven.
- 2. They were not ashamed of their hope, but testified of Christ, the Messiah. Men like Habakkuk, not ashamed of his hope.
 - a. The light of God: substance, or ground. The light of God shines through faith in His promises and our hope is grounded on this light. Not our faith, the promise that excites our faith.
 - b. The light of God: evidence. Makes evident. Causes the eyes to see, because the light of God shines through faith.
 - c. Examples: Abel, Enoch, Noah. Abraham/Sarah. Moses: They esteemed the riches of Christ greater treasure than the world and looked for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
 - d. Illustration 2 Cor 4:33-6 "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus sake. ⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

B. Third, The God of Light Shines in all the world through faith. So we have come full circle from where we began. In God's light we see light. We began with Creation and we end with Creation, a new Creation in Christ Jesus.

1. The God of Light Shines in all things. Vs. 3. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.
2. In the world, in everything that is made, shines the conspicuous and visible image of God and especially in man, who is created in God's image, for man is the reader and the interpreter of this light. This is the light that separates you from the snakes and baboons. The knowledge of God in all things. But if this light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness.
3. This is the light that makes reason and understanding and imagination fruitful and productive. But unbelief takes God's corn and wine and offers it to Baal, for unbelief takes the gifts of God and serves idols with them. Instead of loving the Lord with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, if we serve God, we serve Him with a divided heart, but even the stones cry out against us. Even Habbakuk knew this and said that if you build your town with blood and the city by iniquity, even the stones in the wall will cry out and the timbers shall witness against you. Jesus said that the very stones would cry out if Jerusalem tried to silence the witness of the children who cried "Hosannas."
4. Even the devils know this and tremble. James tells us.
5. Because the light of God shines in the whole world, we do not need to fight and devour and lust and contend. We do this because we do not believe that everything is God's and He has abundant store for you and me.
 - a. We have not because we ask not. "if you being evil..." There is abundant store in Jesus Christ to satisfy our deepest and true desires. Delight yourself in the Lord.....
 - b. And when we ask, we ask with a divided heart, seeking to devour God's gifts and denying His glory.
 - c. It is only in purity of heart that we shall see God and the light of God that shines through all things. The stronger our faith, the more we will see; but unbelief blinds our hearts and minds.

III. The Application for all that we have said these past two days is found in Romans 12:1,2.

- A. Let us give ourselves up to Christ as Paul tells us in Romans 12:1,2. This is the demand of faith. "Therefore" –because of everything Paul had said.
- B. The body that had been an instrument of sin, is to be given up to Christ to serve Him by faith.
- C. Living sacrifice; Christ's blood has been shed for sins, so we offer no bloody sacrifice for sin, but we do offer up ourselves in service: living sacrifices, because we no longer belong to ourselves, but belong to Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 6:19 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." This includes far more than abstaining from adultery and fornication, but this is a good start.

D. Approve: what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. We are to let our light shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in Heaven. The light of God that shines in all things, is to shine in our lives and hearts for His glory and praise forever and ever.

E. We do not make the light shine: it already shines; we are to receive it and reflect it, for the glory of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

1. It is God that works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.
2. He who has begun a good work in you will perform it unto the Day of Christ.

Amen and Amen.

God bless you.