

“God As My Witness!”
Hebrews 11:1-3

Introduction:

1. You Might Be Surprised Who You Won't See In Heaven!
 - You Would Think That Someone Who Was A Preacher All His Life Would Be In Heaven, Wouldn't You?
 - You Would Think That Someone God Used To Cast Out Demons Would Be In Heaven, Wouldn't You?
 - You Would Think That Someone Who Used His Great Talents & Abilities In Church All His Life Would Be In Heaven, Wouldn't You?
 - Jesus Said In Matthew 7:21-23, 28 - “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. / Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? / And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity! / And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine!”
 - How, Then, Can You Know If You'll Be In Heaven? How, Then, Can You Know If You Are Saved? How Can You Know That Your Soul Is Safe? What Is The Proof?
 - 1 John 5:13 - “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God!”
 - You Need A Solid Witness To This Truth!
 - ***Who Is The Witness For Your Soul?***
1. Last Week Looked At The Fact That:
 - Faith Is Central In The Life Of A Christian!
 - Because Through Faith A Christian Is Saved!
 - Because By Faith A Christian Lives!
 - Seen Throughout Hebrews 11!
 - Before You Can Live By Faith, You First Must Have Faith!
 - Looked At The Foundation Of Faith!
 - A Faith That Is Given By God That Affects Every Part Of You – Your Mind, Heart, Will & Life!
2. How Do You Know You Possess This Faith?
 - What Is The Proof That Your Soul Is Safe?
 - ***Who Is The Witness For Your Soul?***
1. ***Are You Relying On The Witness Of Men?***
 - Do You Realize, That When It Comes To Your Soul, It Doesn't Matter What Other People Say About You?
 - Soul - Genesis 2:7 - “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul!”
 - It Doesn't Matter What People Will Say About Your Soul At Your Funeral!
 - Only 2 Things Are Certain In Life: Death & Taxes!
 - You Will Die! Cemeteries! You May Have A Funeral! You Will Have People Say Things About You At Your Funeral! What Will They Say About You? About Your Soul? Does It Really Matter?
 - It Doesn't Matter What Your Family Says About Your Soul!
 - Family Bible Inscription! Does It Really Matter?
 - It Doesn't Matter What Your Church Says About Your Soul!
 - Baptism / Church Membership! Does It Really Matter?
 - These Are The Testimonies By Different People About Your Life & Your Soul – But Does Their Testimony Really Matter?
 - No - Because:
 - The Witness Of Man Really Is Ignorant!
 - The Witness Of Man Really Is Insufficient!

- The Witness Of Man Really Is Irrelevant!
- Why?
 - Because According To Romans 14:12 - “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God!”
 - Who Are You Going To Stand Before To Give An Account Of Your Soul?
 - None Of The Above! God Alone!
- What Does Matter Is The Testimony / Witness Of God In Your Soul!
 - 1 John 5:9 - “If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater!”
 - ***Who Is The Witness For Your Soul?***

2. ***Are You Relying On The Witness Of God?***

- Leads Us To Hebrews 11:1-3!
 - Verse 1 - Explains The Role Of Faith!
 - In Hope / As Evidence
 - Verse 2 - Examines The Result Of Faith!
 - “Obtained A Good Report” - But What Is This “Good Report?”
 - “Obtained A Good Report” Is The Translation Of One Word That Is Translated “Witness” In Other Places!
 - “Obtained Witness!”
 - It Was Not A Good Report TO God, But A Good Report / Witness FROM God
 - Not Of Their Goodness But Of His Grace!
 - Not An Active Obtaining (Expert Witness), But A Passive Receiving!
 - What Verse 2 Is Explaining Is: Faith Was The Instrument Through Which God Revealed Himself, His Grace & His Truth To These Believers, So That They Could Live By Faith In Full Assurance & Confidence In God! (Everything About Him!)
 - They Had God As Their Witness!
 - Their God-Given Faith Was The Proof & Evidence They Needed In Order To Live “By Faith” In The Way We See Here!
 - His Witness, Not Of Their Goodness But Of His Grace, Was The Source Of Their Consideration, Confidence, Conviction & Commitment!
 - It Really Wouldn’t Matter If They “Obtained A Good Report” From Us Anyway!
 - They Needed A Faithful & True Witness Of Their Souls!
 - You Need A Faithful & True Witness Of Your Soul As Well!
- Are You Relying On The Testimony Of Others About Your Soul?
 - Are You Even Relying On Your Own Testimony About Your Soul?
 - Remember The One Who Said: “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? / And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity!”
 - Or Are You Relying On The Testimony Of God, Which Is Revealed Through Faith, And Becomes The Source For Your Consideration, Confidence, Conviction & Commitment!
 - Romans 8:16 - “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God!”
- This Is Why We See In Verse 1 That:
 - “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen!”
 - Because It Comes From God! And The Witness Of God Is True! Therefore, What We Receive From God Is All We Need For Our Hope & Our Proof For Our Souls!
- Verse 3 - Example Of The Response Of Faith: (To God’s Witness)
 - “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear!”
 - Could Also Be “By Faith” - Same Wording Found In Rest Of Hebrews 11 - You, Christian, Are Included In This Chapter – In Fact, Listed First!
 - The First Statement Of How Faith Affects Your Life - We Understand / Know God! Fruit Of Faith!
 - Matthew 16:17 - “And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in

heaven!”

- 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, 14 - “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. / But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. / But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned!”

- His Eternality; Sovereignty; Perfection; Power; Will; Wisdom; Grace!

- This Is Where It Starts!

- This Is Why It Is Attacked So Frequently & Ferociously!

- Your Understanding Of God Is An Evidence Of God’s Witness To Your Soul!

Conclusion:

1. ***Who Is The Witness For Your Soul?***

- If You Are Relying On The Witness Of Men, You Need To Realize That Their Witness Is Not So Reliable!

- If You Are Relying On The Witness Of Men, You Need To Realize That The Witness Of God Is Greater!

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