

## The Good Old Days Were Not Better

Hebrews 11:39-40

*Why does one generation report to the next their hardship from the "good old days?" So that the next generation might appreciate the privileges they enjoy.*

- I. The \_\_\_\_\_ to Old Testament saints (39)
- II. The \_\_\_\_\_ for New Testament saints (40)
- III. The \_\_\_\_\_ of faith for all saints
  - A. Faith sees the \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 11:1; Jn 20:29).
  - B. Faith seeks the \_\_\_\_\_ (Col 3:1-4; 2 Cor 4:17-18).
  - C. Faith surrenders to the \_\_\_\_\_.

The failure of these godly examples of faith to obtain the promised eternal inheritance was not due to any fault on their part. Instead, it was because God had planned something better for us. The last clause of the paragraph, *that only together with us would they be made perfect . . .* further explains what is meant. In God's gracious purpose the perfection of the Old Testament faithful was only possible *together with us*. As Moffatt put it: 'God in his good providence reserved the messianic perfection of Jesus Christ until we could share it.' So although some of the attested examples of faith saw the fulfillment of specific promises, they died without having received the ultimate promise until the advent of Christ . . . divine grace extended to those living in the last days, that is, *us* (1:2). - Peter T. O'Brien

Two men stand[ing] on the deck of a ship gazing toward the far horizon; the one sees nothing, the other describes the details of a distant steamer. The former has only his unaided eyesight, the latter is using a telescope! Now just as a powerful glass brings home to the eye an object beyond the range of natural vision, so faith gives reality to the heart of things outside the range of our physical senses. Faith sets Divine things before the soul in all the light and power of demonstration, and thus provides inward conviction of their existence. - A.W. Pink

If those on whom the great light of grace had not yet shone showed such surpassing constancy in bearing their ills, what effect ought the full glory of the gospel to have on us? A tiny spark of light led them to heaven; but now that the Sun of righteousness shines on us, what excuse shall we offer if we still cling to the earth? - John Calvin