

- 32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;
- 33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.
- 34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.
- 35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.
- 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.
- 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.
- 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
- 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. –Hebrews 10:32-39

Chapter Ten of Hebrews brings to a close a major portion of this great epistle—a portion that began with Chapter 4:14, in which the writer considers the work of Christ as a greater priest than Aaron, for He is priest after the order of Melchizedek. He is in heaven, after offering a perfect sacrifice that takes away sin forever for those who worship in His house, which is the church of the Living God. Because sins are taken away, we have access as His people into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, into the very presence of God. We do this by a new a living way, the way of faith, which he describes beginning with verse 21, as we saw last week. This way includes:

1. The Lord Jesus as priest over the house of God.
2. We draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith—not double minded with other agendas
3. Our hearts are sprinkled from an evil conscience: We are justified before the law of God by the blood of Jesus.
4. Our bodies are baptized with pure water—not water mixed with blood, for there is no more sacrifice for sins.
5. We profess and hold fast to the pure faith, without wavering.
6. We stir one another up to love and good works; it is not just me, me, and, me.
7. We are faithful in assembling with the people of God, but have true care and love for one another.

Then having given the Fourth Great Warning about willfully turning away from Christ after He is preached to us, building upon the First, Second, and Third Warnings, the writer now launches into the doctrine of this Faith, which is the New and Living way. It is important to know that this New and Living Way is not new or living as to suppose that the saints of the Old Testament, such as Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Enoch, Job and those who believed in Israel were dead in trespasses and sins. No, the New Testament is the Marvelous Vine that grows from what was contained in the Old that told of Christ and promised the blessings, as chapter 11 will make very clear. There is only one faith, one lord, one baptism in both the Old and New Tes-

taments, and those who are saved believe with one faith in Christ the Savior, and are baptized into Him with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, making one body in Christ forever and ever.

So let us look at our text: verse 32-39, the Life, the Perseverance, and the Reward of Saving Faith, which is the same throughout the Bible, from Abel to the last of the elect of God that are called to faith in Christ through the preaching of the everlasting Gospel, the good news in Jesus Christ our Lord. This is the call that goes out from this pulpit and countless other pulpits throughout the world on every Sabbath Day. We will consider the Life of Faith; the Perseverance of Faith; and the Reward of Faith from verses 32-39.

I. The Life of Faith. Verses 32-34

A. He commends the Hebrew Christians for their love and compassion.

1. To those who were suffering for Christ. They had had a value adjustment, as to what true and enduring treasures are.
2. They had endured reproaches and afflictions, knowing that their inheritance was in heaven.
3. They were not ashamed of those who were enduring troubles for the sake of Christ, and did not look for the easy way themselves. They became companions of them. There are two things that you must do if you have faith: 1. You must join the human race—so many do not think of themselves as sinful participants in the world, the flesh, and the devil, but are observers and critics. 2. You must join the house of God, for there is no salvation except the common salvation which is open to all who are called by the Spirit. So many are observers and critics of the church, also We are all in this together. This is what their baptism and their confession was. They were joined to Christ and to other believers in one body.
4. This is because they looked for an eternal inheritance and did not love the world: they had a better and enduring substance in heaven. The apostle John would later write in his first epistle: “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of th eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.” [1John 2:15-17]
5. They knew this in themselves: they were convinced in their hearts of the promises of the Gospel of the inheritance of eternal life in Jesus Christ. The meek inherit the earth—not this one that shall be consumed with fire, when the elements melt with fervent heat; but the world to come; that world that Abraham looked for, that city whose builder and maker was God.

B. They were not ashamed of the bonds of the writer of the book. Vs. 34 Many were in bondage, and were suffering for Christ, even some of the choicest of saints and teachers of the church. The Hebrews had given of their own goods to alleviate the sufferings of those being persecuted for Christ, endangering their own fortunes and reputations. They had set their affections on things above, and not on the things of this world.

C. In these things they exhibited the very best of Christian virtues, love for the saints. Jesus had said, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for

another." This is truly the life of faith: love for Christ and for His people. For the love that is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit is a fulfilling of the law which says, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." This, the Hebrew Christians had shown, at least in the past. But they were now being troubled by those who would bring them into bondage to Moses, and not to Christ alone.

II. The perseverance of faith. Vs. 35-36

A. Cast not away your confidence. It is not how you start that counts; it is how you end up. Many start out fine. All the virgins, both wise and foolish, had bright lamps to begin with, but the foolish did not take enough to last until the bride groom came. The seed started out well in the stony ground and the thorny ground, but did not bring forth the fruit of faith, because the young shoots were choked out. Many said to Christ, "We will follow you," and He said, "A man who builds a house will first sit down and count the cost." Otherwise he will be counted foolish who began to build and could not finish. Many seek to build but build with wood, hay and stubble.

B. You have need of patience.

1. Patience is a scarce commodity in these days of instant potatoes, biscuits, and high speed internet. We look for instant gratification, but the Lord does not work according to our time tables. He promised Adam and Eve to send the seed of the woman, but thousands and thousands of years would pass before the coming of Christ. God promise that Abraham would inherit all the land of Canaan, but it was four hundred years before Israel entered the land. God promised that he would pour out his Spirit upon all flesh, but hundreds of years would pass before Joel's prophecy would be fulfilled. Jesus WILL come again, and His reward will be with Him, but there may be many, many long years before the time appointed of the Father. A great many foolish things are done because people do not have patience.
2. God will keep His promise that blessings will be to a thousand generations of them that love Him and keep His commandments, but that doesn't mean that some will not wander through the wilderness, far from God, before the Holy Spirit moves again, remembering the promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the same promises to New Testament saints like the Arnolds, the Smiths, the Bergs, the Powells, Savages, and the LaCertes, and the VanderWels, the Kohls, and others. Generations may pass, and many a prodigal may die in a far land without hope and without God, but that does not mean that God has forgotten your prayers and your patience.
3. For this is the promise: "And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression Jacob, saith the Lord. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and forever." [Isai-ah 59:20, 21]
4. For you live, not just for yourself, or for your home and your job and the things of this world; you live for generations to come, and especially for your eternal inheritance, the promise that God gave Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. And yes, even Moses, for Moses by faith, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter: choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a

season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward; by faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible."

5. True faith endures, for it is rooted in the promise of God and the work of the Holy Spirit. It does not draw back. It does not put its hand to the plow and look back; it is not like Lot's wife, who hung back and looked back longingly to the city that was to be destroyed; It endures because greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world; it endures because He who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Christ. It is not a quitter, and runs away when the battle becomes tough and the labor is difficult and the path is strewn with thorns and thistles.

6. This is the victory that overcomes the world: even our faith.

III. The reward of faith: We are not of those who draw back unto perdition, but those who believe to the saving of the soul.

A. Our inheritance is an eternal one with all the people of God. As we have seen.

B. Both the elect of the Jew and the Gentile will be joined in one body and will inherit the blessings and promises of Abraham, for these were by faith and not the works of the law.

C. The promise to Abraham was twofold:

1. He would inherit the world: Romans 4:13. In Abraham would the meek inherit the earth; Not this earth that passes away, but the world to come, as we saw in our previous study in Hebrews. Israel's inheritance of the land of Canaan was a figure and type of the eternal inheritance of all the people of God, for the seed of the flesh transgressed the covenant and were expelled from the land and the temple destroyed. Israel remains in unbelief and may very well be cast out of the land again. I support the nation of Israel today, but not because of God's promise of Abraham, except in terms of the new covenant in Jesus Christ which they do not believe yet.
2. He would have a miracle child, Isaac, who would represent a numerous people not born of the flesh, but of the Spirit, who would inherit the kingdom of God, being born of the Spirit. But just as the land is a type of the eternal kingdom, so Isaac was a type of the eternal Son of God, the Savior of the world, born of the Spirit, formed in the body of the Virgin Mary without the seed of man.
3. The Son of God would do what Abraham could not do; what his fleshly seed could not do; what Isaac could not do; what Moses and David and Ezekiel, Daniel, and Job could not do; which John the Baptist could not do. What Jesus does is the greatest of all the works that God has done for man; and we read of this in Galatians 3:13:

"13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:
14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Ga 3:13-14) So then, "if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Application: it is the same as last week's.

1. The Lord Jesus as priest over the house of God. It is precious to our Lord Jesus, and must be precious to us.
2. We draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith—not double minded with other agendas
3. Our hearts are sprinkled from an evil conscience: We are justified before the law of God by the blood of Jesus.
4. Our bodies are baptized with pure water—not water mixed with blood, for there is no more sacrifice for sins.
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