

LESSON 14: HEBREWS 11-13
OCTOBER 5, 2016

OVERVIEW

- . Faith in Action – Hebrews 11:1-12:29
- . Admonitions – Hebrews 13:1-25

FAITH IN ACTION – HEBREWS 11:1-12:29

- . Definition of faith – Hebrews 11:1-2
 - . Confidence in what we hope for and assurance in what we do not see
 - . Faith comes from the Greek word *hypostasis*, which means that which stands under, that which holds up
 - . Faith is believing in that which has no material evidence
 - . Faith becomes a way of life
- . Faith's basic beliefs – Hebrews 11:3-7
 - . The creation of the world
 - . The first basic belief is the creation of the world
 - . Faith teaches us that God was instrumental in the creation of the universe
 - . What appears to be so material and so available to our senses now, once did not exist
 - . Approaching God by sacrifice
 - . The second doctrine of faith is the doctrine of sacrifice
 - . God looks at the heart behind the sacrifice
 - . He looks at the heart before He looks at the sacrifice
 - . With Cain and Abel, Abel brought from the firstborn of his flock, whereas Cain merely brought what was available
 - . Life after death
 - . In the story of Enoch we see God taking Enoch directly in to His presence without Enoch experiencing death
 - . It's a picture of Enoch continuing to experience life in a place other than the material world
 - . This story along with other examples described in scripture clearly reference a life to come in a place other than the material world
 - . Faith believes in the invisible world to come, even though it does not have complete empirical data to support such a hope

- . The wrath to come
 - . Finally there is the doctrine of the wrath of God to come
Hebrews 11:7
 - . We have not seen evidence of this coming event, yet, we have seen
Biblical examples of the wrath of God
 - . Jesus warns that His return will be like Noah's flood
 - . It will be a time of judgment
 - . It will be absolute
 - . It will come at a time of God's choosing
 - . The world no more believes this than those at the time of Noah
believed the approaching flood

- . Abraham's example of faith – Hebrews 11:8-12
 - . Abraham's response to God's call
 - . Abraham left the comforts of Ur and his home to go to a foreign place
 - . Abraham asked for no detailed explanations or plans
 - . Abraham's son – Hebrews 11:11-12
 - . First, Abraham had to believe that he could even have a son at such
an old age and that Sarah could give birth at such an old age
 - . Then, after Isaac was born, God told Abraham to go and sacrifice him
at the altar
 - . After waiting patiently for so many years to have a son, he was
willing to be obedient and do as God told

- . Additional Biblical examples of men living by faith – Hebrews 11:20-40
 - . Jacob – Hebrews 11:21
 - . The blessing of his son's on his deathbed
 - . Joseph – Hebrews 11:22
 - . Faith remained undiminished despite thirteen years of being
mistreated
 - . Moses' parents – Hebrews 11:23
 - . Moses – Hebrews 11:24-28
 - . The Exodus – Hebrews 11:29
 - . Canaan's conquest – Hebrews 11:30-31
 - . Other Old Testament heroes – Hebrews 11:32-40
 - . The Hebrew readers of this letter were familiar with each of these
leaders and their acts based on their deep faith

- . Tests today – Hebrews 12:1-13
 - . Given the great cloud of witnesses, we are exhorted to throw off everything
that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles
 - . We are called to run the race that is marked out for us
 - . We are called to reject anything that might hinder us

- . We must fix our eyes on the perfecter of that faith
- . Jesus is the perfecter of our faith
- . By choosing to be a member of the body of Christ we become a part of that Person that is perfect in every way

- . Jesus' suffering – Hebrews 12:2-4
 - . Jesus was willing to go to the cross because of the joy set before Him
 - . That joy was rooted in the hope of bringing many sons and daughters into glory
 - . Part of God's plan was that Jesus would have to suffer
 - . We will all encounter a degree of suffering
 - . Knowing that Christ's degree of suffering was greater will help to give us the strength to persevere

- . A solemn warning – Hebrews 12:14-29
 - . Three dangers to avoid – Hebrews 12:15-17
 - . First, be careful not to miss the grace of God
 - . God gives grace but grace is not secured by unbelief
 - . Second, guard against any root of bitterness that might grow up in your heart
 - . Third, do not fall in to immorality
 - . Do not relapse in to an unholy life
 - . The choice – Hebrews 12:18-29
 - . The writer challenges the reader – knowing all these things, will you go back to your old ways or will you move forward
 - . Ultimately you will have to decide without all the answers at your disposal – it will come down to faith

ADMONITIONS – HEBREWS 13:1-25

- . Five essentials – Hebrews 13:1-6
 - . First, love one another
 - . Second, be hospitable
 - . Third, be sympathetic and helpful
 - . Fourth, show purity in sexual matters
 - . Fifth, be content with what you have

- . Respect your leaders – Hebrews 13:7-17
 - . In these verses the writer is referring to the leaders of the church
 - . He reminds us that the ultimate head of the church is Christ
 - . In addition, there are earthly leaders of the church, chosen to lead us
 - . These leaders are entrusted in keeping us from going astray

- . Avoid the temptations to go back to old ways and old beliefs
 - . This was one of the greatest temptations that the Hebrew audience was dealing with
- . Praying – Hebrews 13:18-19
 - . We all have a clear conscience and desire to live the right way
- . Benediction – Hebrews 13:20-21
 - . He uses the word peace to drive home the idea that our God is a God that can lead us in to a place of peace that passes all understanding
 - . God's purpose through all of this has been to equip us for doing His will
 - . Let God work within us to change us and to equip us in a way that will allow us to live a Holy and good life
 - . Live a life that will glorify God

NO LESSON ON OCTOBER 19, 2016

NEXT LESSON: NOVEMBER 2, 2016 – ACTS 15:36-18:22