

Sunday School Lesson

August 8, 2021

Meaning of Faith

Lesson Text: Hebrews 11:1-8, 13-16

Bible Background: Hebrews 11; 13:1-19

Devotional Reading: Hebrews 11:32-40

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Questions for Us

Who do you see as heroes and s/heroes in the Bible?

2

Who do you see as s/heroes and heroes in your lifetime?

Points of Information - Hebrews

We do not know who wrote the Book of Hebrews. It has variously been ascribed to a number of different people.

3

Despite some conceptual similarities, most Biblical theologians and scholars are certain that this letter was not written by the Apostle Paul.

Points of Information - Hebrews

The writer of this Epistle (letter) urged the early Jewish Christians (likely in Rome) to understand that faith in Christ was superior to their prior beliefs and practices in Judaism – and that faith in Christianity would be sufficient and best for them.

Points of Information - Hebrews

The Hebrews writer spoke extensively about Christ Jesus in earlier Chapters, including: 1:2-8; 2:6-13, 16-18; 3:1-3, 6, 14-15; 4:8, 14-15; 5:5-6, 8-10; 6:1, 20; 7:22; 9:11-12, 14-15, 24-26, 28; 10:9, 12, 19.

Points of Information - Hebrews

In Hebrews 10:38, the writer said this:

“The just (righteous) shall live by faith.”

Points of Information - Hebrews

Now, in today's lesson passage, the Hebrews writer used key examples of faithful people from Biblical history (the Old Testament), with whom the early Jewish Christian readers were familiar.

Points of Information - Hebrews

Chapter 11 – the focus of today's lesson – contains a well known Hall of Faith.

8

Mentioned are Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses.

Also included are Rahab, Samson, Samuel and David.

Hebrews 11:1 (NRSV)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction [evidence] of things not seen.

A dictionary definition:

“Belief that is not based on proof.”

How would you define faith?

Hebrews 11:2

**Indeed, by faith our ancestors
received approval.**

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the Word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

[Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:1]

Hebrews 11:4

By faith, Abel offered a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God Himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks.

[Genesis 4:1-11]

Hebrews 11:5

By faith, Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and “he was not found because God had taken him.” For it was attested before he was taken away that “he had pleased God.”

[Genesis 5:24]

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.

Hebrews 11:7

By faith, Noah warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to righteousness that is in accordance with faith.

[Genesis 6:7-8, 13-14, 22; 7:5]

Hebrews 11:8

By faith, Abraham obeyed when he set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

[Genesis 12:1]

Hebrews 11:13, 14

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were foreigners and strangers on the earth,

For people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

Hebrews 11:15

If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.

Hebrews 11:16

But, as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, He has prepared a city for them.

A hymn for today:

"My faith looks up to Thee..."

Hallelujah!

Thank you Jesus!