

A Faith Greater Than The Faith Of Martyrs?

By: Dan Jenkins

The writer of Hebrews could so easily see the dangers faced by those Jewish Christians. The nation that killed God's Son turned its wrath on the church almost from the day it began. Jesus had warned them about the trials that were coming. Obviously, they persecuted those Gentiles who had become followers of Jesus, but their persecution was even more fierce on the Christians addressed in this epistle.

They had begun their walk with Jesus and faced many trials which came their way. Hebrews chapter ten describes this: "After you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings...you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations." The author then adds, "You became a companion of those who were so treated" (10:32-33).

How did they emotionally respond to all of this? "You joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods" (10:34). Earthly possessions are meaningless when viewed from the eternal truth about our existence. They could so easily give up that which was temporal. "Knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven."

Living faithfully on this earth for many years is so difficult. We understand the faith of those who are martyrs for the cause of Christ. At that last moment they reached deep within

their souls and their faith sustained. What we may have done is overlooked the depth of the faith of those who face not a momentary trial, but serve Him for years and years. We rightly honor the faith of martyrs, but perhaps it takes a deeper faith to serve Him for years and years.

When this letter was written their devotion was weakening. Look again at this chapter and the admonition given to them. "Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God you may receive the promise...if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in Him" (10:35-38).

Now make the application in your life. How long have you been a Christian? Where is your faith in Him compared to what it once was? Remember how joyfully you served Him at first? Remember your routine of daily Bible study and prayer? Remember the joy of partaking of the Lord's Supper and being part of worship, praising His name? Is it possible that we have become "tired" because the journey seems so long? It is not that we have walked away from Him, but have we lifted our anchor and are we slowly drifting away (**Heb. 2:1**)?

“Six Days” Is Not Complicated

Selected Article

In a variety of ways, certain skeptics of the Bible attempt to take some of the simplest teachings of the Bible and complicate them to mean something they do not, and they seek to use their so-called “scholarship” to convince individuals that their conclusions are sound. This is true of a variety of Bible teachings, but consider for a moment the days of creation.

On the very first page of the Bible, readers learn about the creation of the universe and everything in it. The Bible plainly teaches that all of this transpired over a period of six days. Unfortunately, those who consider themselves “to be something” take the simple and argue that it is not so simple. Attempts have been made to identify the “days” in Genesis 1 as long eons of time and not actual 24-hour, literal days. But read the text for what it says.

In verse 5, God defines what a day is. “So the evening and the morning were the first day.” The Bible uses these words numerous times in a literal way just as we use them today. A “day” is made up of two parts: evening (a time of “darkness”) and morning (a time of “light”). A simple, unbiased Bible reader will understand this to be a 24-hour day.

Verse 5 also begins to number the days—“the first day,” “the second day” (1:8), “the third day” (1:13), etc. Except in areas of figurative, prophetic language, when “day” is preceded by a numeral in the Old Testament, it is always a 24-hour period. God was numbering the days for us.

In verse 14, God distinguished the word “days” from the word “years.” If the “days” of creation were actually “years” (as some suggest), then what does the word “years” mean? These words are used in the very same way that we use them today. If not, the passage is nonsensical.

If there was eons of time after the creation of the grass, herbs and trees on the third day, how did those plants and vegetation survive the years upon years of darkness (with no light) and the eons of time before insects were created to pollinate them? They could not have survived.

The text in **Exodus 20:8-11** is God’s clear commentary on the creation. It is so easy to understand. “Remember the Sabbath day” (a 24-hour period). “Six days you shall labor,” for six 24-hour periods. “The seventh day is the Sabbath,” which is a 24-hour period. Having used the word “day” three times with a literal, 24-hour meaning, God then says, “For in six days the Lord made” everything. Those were six, literal, 24-hour days. The Bible makes that very plain! Only man could try to make that complicated!

There are no eons of time in the literal, 24-hour days of creation! The Bible makes that so simple to understand!

Pocket Directories for 2023:

Please check your family information on the table in the foyer. Put a check if correct, or make any changes needed. Deadline to make changes is Wed. Jan. 11, 2023.

Upcoming Events

TONIGHT: White Elephant gift exchange after evening services. Please bring finger foods and a wrapped gift if you would like to participate in the exchange.

Sat. Feb. 4: Midtown will host Ladies Day with our sister Candice Starling as the speaker. Save this date Ladies!

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

March 2-5, 2023: Arise and Overcome at Southwest church of Christ.

We rejoice that Mack Terry, Kannon Jacobs and Blake Jacobs were baptized last Sunday. May their walk with Christ bear much fruit.

There are updates to Joyce Faires and Peggy Matlock's contact information in the foyer. Please update your pocket directory.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Mary Younglove, Naomi Flonnory's grandmother, who is in the hospital.

Dale Powers who is having medical issues.

Vergie Shelton and her family who have medical issues.

Patsy Serenil, mother of Eddie Serenil, who has health problems.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson.

Food Helpers for the month of Dec. - Team B.

Service Roster

Week of December 18, 2022

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Willie Fossati
Song Leader..... Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Rick Bass
Closing Prayer..... Kevin Sheeran

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Lupe Escojido
Cup..... Bryant Siegel
Offering..... James Cammock
Assist..... Bill York
Assist..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Jeff Cannady

Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Rick Bass

Opening Prayer..... James Cammock
Closing Prayer..... Jeff Cannady

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Lupe Escojido/
Bryant Siegel

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Brandon Starling
Song Leader..... Doug Jobes
Devotional..... Brandon Starling

Other

Prepare Communion..... Debra Sanchez

Congregational News

Birthdays

Gloria Perez..... Dec. 18
Kirk FitzSimmons..... Dec. 20
Kasi Jobes..... Dec. 21
Rieke Bass..... Dec. 22

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“For if what is passing away was glorious, what
remains is much more glorious”
2 Corinthians 3:11

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of December 11, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....69
A.M. Worship.....101
P.M. Worship.....74
Wednesday Bible Class.....66

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
B.K. York *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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