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HEBREWS

Chapter 11:17-40

CONFIDENT IN CHRIST – PT.2

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. We are still on the great “**Hebrew Hall of Faith**” chapter – **Chapter 11**.
1. This Chapter is so awesome and full, that Pastor Dan simply didn’t have enough time last week, to get past **Verse 16**.
 2. The writer of course, is expounding on faith and giving us a rich legacy of those who have gone before us - those who have lived and died in the faith.
 - a) So far, he has listed **Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham**, and **Sarah**.
 - b) He told us that they “died in faith” – **not having received the promises, but having seen then “afar off” (verse 13)**
 - (1) That “**they desired a ..heavenly country, therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God.**” – (**verse 16**)
 3. Now, we will continue with **Chapter 11** and our study of the great men and women of the faith!

II. **HEB 11:17-19 BY FAITH ABRAHAM, WHEN HE WAS TESTED, OFFERED UP ISAAC, AND HE WHO HAD RECEIVED THE PROMISES OFFERED UP HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, 18 OF WHOM IT WAS SAID, “IN ISAAC YOUR SEED SHALL BE CALLED,” 19 CONCLUDING THAT GOD WAS ABLE TO RAISE HIM UP, EVEN FROM THE DEAD, FROM WHICH HE ALSO RECEIVED HIM IN A FIGURATIVE SENSE.**

- A. The point is this: Abraham had received a promise from the Lord that He would make him the father of many nations.
1. And yet, the Lord was requiring his only son!
 2. The Lord could not take his son and still make Abraham the father of many nations – UNLESS – the Lord intended to raise his son from the dead.
 - a) I think it is important to know that in Abraham’s heart that is exactly what happened.
 - b) He was willing to sacrifice his ONLY son because HE KNEW that the Lord would fulfill His promise to Abraham – THAT IS FAITH!

III. **HEBREWS 11:20–22 (NKJV) — 20 BY FAITH ISAAC BLESSED JACOB AND ESAU CONCERNING THINGS TO COME. 21 BY FAITH JACOB, WHEN HE WAS DYING, BLESSED EACH OF THE SONS OF JOSEPH, AND WORSHIPED, LEANING ON THE TOP OF HIS STAFF. 22 BY FAITH JOSEPH, WHEN HE WAS DYING, MADE MENTION OF THE DEPARTURE OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AND GAVE INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING HIS BONES.**

- A. Abraham passed the blessing and hope along to Isaac.
1. Isaac passed it along to Jacob, Jacob to Joseph, and Joseph so much believed on those promises that he requested his bones to be returned so that he could be buried in the Promise Land!

- a) All of this was done in faith!

IV. HEBREWS 11:23–29 (NKJV) — 23 BY FAITH MOSES, WHEN HE WAS BORN, WAS HIDDEN THREE MONTHS BY HIS PARENTS, BECAUSE THEY SAW HE WAS A BEAUTIFUL CHILD; AND THEY WERE NOT AFRAID OF THE KING’S COMMAND. 24 BY FAITH MOSES, WHEN HE BECAME OF AGE, REFUSED TO BE CALLED THE SON OF PHARAOH’S DAUGHTER, 25 CHOOSING RATHER TO SUFFER AFFLICTION WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD THAN TO ENJOY THE PASSING PLEASURES OF SIN, 26 ESTEEMING THE REPROACH OF CHRIST GREATER RICHES THAN THE TREASURES IN EGYPT; FOR HE LOOKED TO THE REWARD. 27 BY FAITH HE FORSOOK EGYPT, NOT FEARING THE WRATH OF THE KING; FOR HE ENDURED AS SEEING HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE. 28 BY FAITH HE KEPT THE PASSOVER AND THE SPRINKLING OF BLOOD, LEST HE WHO DESTROYED THE FIRSTBORN SHOULD TOUCH THEM. 29 BY FAITH THEY PASSED THROUGH THE RED SEA AS BY DRY LAND, WHEREAS THE EGYPTIANS, ATTEMPTING TO DO SO, WERE DROWNED.

- A. To fulfill His promise to Abraham, the Lord allowed baby Moses to be spared from the King of Egypt’s command to kill all the Hebrew male children that were being born at the time.
1. And although he was raised in the Pharaoh’s house, when the time came, he could not abandon his people.
 2. He chose poverty and affliction over the opulence of the King’s court!
 3. And please notice – that although Moses lived and died in the Old Testament – the writer of Hebrews says that Moses, **26 ESTEEM(ed) THE REPROACH OF CHRIST GREATER RICHES THAN THE TREASURES IN EGYPT.**
 - a) This verse is extremely significant! The writer of Hebrews is linking the Lord’s promises to Abraham – to be fulfilled in Jesus!!
 4. So, Moses turned his back on Egypt to follow the Lord and His promises.
 - a) And the only way to get to where the Lord told him to go – was through the Red Sea.
 - b) Now – with Egyptian soldiers behind you and only other way to go was through water – that took some faith!

V. HEBREWS 11:30–31 (NKJV) — 30 BY FAITH THE WALLS OF JERICHO FELL DOWN AFTER THEY WERE ENCIRCLED FOR SEVEN DAYS. 31 BY FAITH THE HARLOT RAHAB DID NOT PERISH WITH THOSE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE, WHEN SHE HAD RECEIVED THE SPIES WITH PEACE.

- A. You may remember from our studies in Joshua, that the Lord told them to march around Jericho 7 times then shout and the wall would fall down.
1. That is exactly what they did and that is exactly what happened. I would say that – that was pretty unconventional warfare, wouldn’t you?
 - a) It is important to remember that it wasn’t the “formula or the shouting that brought Jericho down – it was God!
 - b) But they had enough faith to believe that if they did what they were supposed to – that the Lord would do exactly as He promised!
 2. Rahab is also listed in the chapter because she had enough faith to help God’s people.

VI. **HEBREWS 11:32–34 (NKJV) — 32 AND WHAT MORE SHALL I SAY? FOR THE TIME WOULD FAIL ME TO TELL OF GIDEON AND BARAK AND SAMSON AND JEPHTHAH, ALSO OF DAVID AND SAMUEL AND THE PROPHETS: 33 WHO THROUGH FAITH SUBDUED KINGDOMS, WORKED RIGHTEOUSNESS, OBTAINED PROMISES, STOPPED THE MOUTHS OF LIONS, 34 QUENCHED THE VIOLENCE OF FIRE, ESCAPED THE EDGE OF THE SWORD, OUT OF WEAKNESS WERE MADE STRONG, BECAME VALIANT IN BATTLE, TURNED TO FLIGHT THE ARMIES OF THE ALIENS.**

A. In this list you will notice that these men were POSITIVELY victorious!

1. There are those wonderful times in our Christian walk where it seems nothing can stop us.
2. We can subdue kingdoms, stop the mouths of lions, to wax valiant in fight, and turn to flight the armies of the enemy!
 - a) But there are also those times where the VICTORY is in the negative like this next list.

VII. **HEBREWS 11:35–37 (NKJV) — 35 WOMEN RECEIVED THEIR DEAD RAISED TO LIFE AGAIN. OTHERS WERE TORTURED, NOT ACCEPTING DELIVERANCE, THAT THEY MIGHT OBTAIN A BETTER RESURRECTION. 36 STILL OTHERS HAD TRIAL OF MOCKINGS AND SCOURGINGS, YES, AND OF CHAINS AND IMPRISONMENT. 37 THEY WERE STONED, THEY WERE SAWN IN TWO, WERE TEMPTED, WERE SLAIN WITH THE SWORD. THEY WANDERED ABOUT IN SHEEPSKINS AND GOATSKINS, BEING DESTITUTE, AFFLICTED, TORMENTED—**

A. We have in our Christian heritage a great list of triumphant victories – that is true – but we also have a great list of suffering VICTORS.

1. Many have given their lives for the cause of Christ.
2. The world would consider them losers because they were successful in torturing and killing them.
 - a) The world also considered Jesus a loser.
 - b) After all they were successful in torturing and killing Him, and He did not show any outward sign that he was God!
 - c) He DID NOT deliver Himself from the cross.
 - d) He chose the path of many that went before Him, to be a Suffering Victor!
 - (1) **HEBREWS 5:5–9 (NKJV) — 5 SO ALSO CHRIST DID NOT GLORIFY HIMSELF TO BECOME HIGH PRIEST, BUT IT WAS HE WHO SAID TO HIM: “YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.” 6 AS HE ALSO SAYS IN ANOTHER PLACE: “YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK”; 7 WHO, IN THE DAYS OF HIS FLESH, WHEN HE HAD OFFERED UP PRAYERS AND SUPPLICATIONS, WITH VEHEMENT CRIES AND TEARS TO HIM WHO WAS ABLE TO SAVE HIM FROM DEATH, AND WAS HEARD BECAUSE OF HIS GODLY FEAR, 8 THOUGH HE WAS A SON, YET HE LEARNED OBEDIENCE BY THE THINGS WHICH HE SUFFERED. 9 AND HAVING BEEN PERFECTED, HE BECAME THE AUTHOR OF ETERNAL SALVATION TO ALL WHO OBEY HIM,**

VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. **HEBREWS 11:38–40 (NKJV) — 38 OF WHOM THE WORLD WAS NOT WORTHY. THEY WANDERED IN DESERTS AND MOUNTAINS, IN DENS AND CAVES OF THE EARTH. 39 AND ALL THESE, HAVING OBTAINED A GOOD TESTIMONY THROUGH FAITH, DID NOT RECEIVE THE PROMISE, 40 GOD HAVING PROVIDED SOMETHING BETTER FOR US, THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE MADE PERFECT APART FROM US.**
1. The world was not worthy of these dear saints that gave their lives in faith, and it should bring us great comfort to know that we are not alone in our suffering!
 2. Many are those who have gone before us and all the dear saints mentioned in **Chapter 11** did it through faith in a promise that they had not yet seen fulfilled!
 - a) It was the promise of the Messiah that you and I have seen come to pass.
 - b) They died in faith BELIEVING that the Messiah would come. We die in faith KNOWING that the Messiah has already come!
 - (1) But the result is the same – eternal life in Jesus!
- B. Now folks as we close this wonderful – encouraging chapter, and we see how many soldiers in the Lord have given their lives for the cause of Christ – it should encourage us to not let anything get in our way.
1. **HEBREWS 12:1 (NKJV) — 1 THEREFORE WE ALSO, SINCE WE ARE SURROUNDED BY SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES, LET US LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT, AND THE SIN WHICH SO EASILY ENSNARES US, AND LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US,**
 2. Look at the steps we are to take:
 - a) Lay aside every weight and sin.
 - b) Run with endurance.
 - c) Looking to Jesus!