

GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING US

God's Grace - Ephesians 2:8
God's Love and Mercy - Ephesians 2:4
Christ's Blood Shed – Romans 5:9-11
The Gospel – Romans 1:16

Our Response of Faith:

Believe - Acts 16:31; Mark 16:15-16
Repentance – Luke 13:3
Confession – Romans 10:10
Be baptized for remission of sins –
Acts 2:38; I Peter 3:21
Be faithful, committed, walk in light –
Revelation 2:10; I John 1:7-10



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Faith As Defined... from page 3

are visible" (11.3). Faith gives us assurance and confidence that this is true, and that feels good. Uncertainty, or having no faith, doesn't feel good.

But Hebrews 11 does not limit faith to only a feeling or understanding, as good as those are. The chapter doesn't end with verse 3. The Holy Spirit guided the writer of Hebrews to demonstrate time and again that God expects a response from our faith. What did people do who believed what God said? By faith Abel offered (11.4), Noah constructed (11.7), Abraham obeyed, went, lived, looked, and offered (11.8-10, 17), Isaac invoked (11.20), Jacob blessed (11.21), Moses chose, left, and kept (11.25-28), Israel crossed (11.29), Rahab welcomed (11.31), and a host of others conquered, enforced, obtained, stopped, quenched, escaped, were made strong, became mighty, defeated armies, suffered, and were tortured, destitute, afflicted, mistreated and killed (11.32-34). Faith gave these men and women the confidence and assurance to do these things and/or to endure these things. From Hebrews 11 faith is never motionless, apathetic or academic. The faith described in this chapter is living and active – or it's dead (James 2.21-26). Because of our confidence in the evidence God provides, we do what He says, if it is our goal to please God. "For without faith it is impossible to please him" (11.6a).

However, Hebrews 11 makes it clear that there is a reward for such faith. God is not a tyrant who expects us to sacrifice for Him without receiving something in return. No, our faith not only allows us to please Him (if that were not enough), but also to draw near to Him and be rewarded by Him (11.6). The thought of a greater reward inspired the ancients (11.13-16, 24-26, 39-40). It should inspire us too!!

If thoughts of an eternal reward in the presence of God (John 14.1-3) fills you with hope like it did the ancients, then you need to take to heart the message of Hebrews 11. Having the kind of faith described there will give you confidence and assurance!
by Joe Chesser



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CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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What Will the Future Be Without the Past?

by Mel Martin

What will happen to the church when the aged, those who have been tried in the faith, those who have sacrificed, labored, rejoiced and cried, pass from the scene?

What happened to God's people after the death of Joshua? As long as Joshua led the children of Israel, they served God. But what happened after both he and those who had seen the mighty works of God died? Let's see: Joshua 24:31 *"And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that over-lived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel."* Judges 2:9-10 *"And they buried him (Joshua) in the border of his inheritance in Timnathheres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash. And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel."* Judges 2:11 *"And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim."*

The repetition of this phenomenon is striking in the succession of kings which would eventually guide Israel. It is a fearful thing when a good king dies, for the salvation of all Israel is at stake.

The old ones in a congregation are the Joshuas, and they are that generation which have seen the mighty works of God. Will there arise another generation after them which will not know God? There is a great responsibility upon the aged in every congregation.

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NEWS & NOTES...

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Billy and Janice Sue Bybee recuperating at home; Margie Gentry at home; Becky Hatcher is at home. Wayne continues to be her caregiver; Lisa Schuler's mom Juanita Ward and her sister Linda with a brain tumor; Mike Thompson; Mark Hatcher (back); Joyce Dye as she deals with pain in her back; Laura Brooks staying with her daughter; Lori Brewer; Brenda Jagers; Dennis Hatcher has been confined to home most of last week, with COVID symptoms; we are glad Kellie Long and family are doing better after having COVID; Chad Davis undergoing treatments for colon cancer; baby Isaiah Richardson; Tom Whittington; Mary Thompson; Parker Bybee; Bobby Bybee starting treatments; Bobby Pedigo; health care workers; staffs in our school districts; first responders; all the victims from the recent storms Friends in our community: Jerry Cherry; Chris Houk; Greg Gore (cancer)

IN THE HOSPITAL

Ann Schuler, Malon Schuler's mom, remains in the Medical Center at Caverna. She now has COVID

SYMPATHY to the family of Mary Frances Peden. She was a member of the South Green St. Church of Christ in Glasgow. She is our Carolyn Russell's aunt, her father's sister in law. Her funeral was Wed.

PRAY FOR MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

Nepal and Bangladesh - Michael Brooks
The Barnabas Journey - Ed Bass
House To House/Heart To Heart local mailing

SIGNATURE HEALTH CARE Horse Cave

Vincent Ward

HIGHLAND RIDGE in Glasgow

Wanda Proffitt

NHC in Glasgow

Jean Turner

BARREN COUNTY HEALTHCARE in Glasgow
Ruth Bradford

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 6 PM

Wayne will teach this week from Heb. 11

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

Today is our 9th lesson in the Winter Quarter "Isaiah Part 1" Today's topic: "*Nations Are Accountable*" Isaiah 13:1-14, 17-22; 14:5-13 Wayne Hatcher continues to serve as teacher.

PREACHING TODAY

Today is our first 5th Sunday of 2022. We are happy to welcome Robbie Fudge who will be preaching today at 11 am and 5 pm

TUNE IN TO OUR RADIO PROGRAMS

on WLOC radio on Sunday mornings to hear our broadcast: on 101.7 FM or 1150 AM or from their webpage: wloconline.com

8:30-8:45 a.m. **Words of Truth** - Billy Bybee

8:45-9:00 a.m. **Truth In Love** - Wayne Hatcher

TEST YOUR BIBLE IQ

Who was Deborah's husband?

Answer to our question last week:

Ezekiel

Chasing After New Things

by Bill Brandstatter

Every year something "new" comes out. The past year had its share of new things and 2022 will also. We look at the rising crime rates and the lowering of morals and we know there has to be a better way. We look at the skyrocketing rate of divorce and the worldly concepts of marriage and we say: "There has to be a better way." We view many other "ills" of the modern world and are forced to see that everything modern is not good. We long for the time again when we didn't have to lock our doors and a man's word was his bond.

Some "old-fashioned" things can still be good. Jer. 6:16. states: "Ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk in it" (NKJV). Luke records, "For all the Athenians and the

foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing." (Acts 17:21) Let us look at some old things that are really "new" in a society that chases after new things.

AN OLD-FASHIONED FAITH. Some would claim that faith is "better caught than taught." Others would say that faith is "better felt than told." The Bible says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." (Rom.10:17) The reality and validity of an old-fashioned faith is not found in a person's think so, but in God's say so. This faith comes from the "engrafted" or "implanted" word. (James 1:21)

AN OLD-FASHIONED OBEDIENCE. An old-fashioned faith will naturally lead to an old-fashioned obedience. Jesus stated, "Not everyone that says to be 'Lord, Lord', shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." (Mt. 7:21) When a person really believes what God says, he or she will submit to it. The faith that saves is the faith that obeys.

AN OLD-FASHIONED RIGHTEOUSNESS. In an age when people without moral anchors are crying, "What's in it for me?" or "I've got to look out for myself"; we need emphasis on the righteousness which God reveals. Our purpose in life is clearly stated in Eccl. 12:13. There Solomon wrote, "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all." Why do right? Because that is my purpose in life. Instead of expecting something back for doing right, we ought to do right because it is right.

AN OLD-FASHIONED CHURCH. Man, today has an obsession to be "up to date." Two thousand years ago those that obeyed the word were baptized and added to the church, according to Acts 2:38, 47. The church met on the first day of the week to break bread (Acts 20:7). The worship of the early church was simple. They didn't have a jazz band or a dance team. They sang (Eph. 5:19). We need old-fashioned preaching. (1 Pet. 4:11) In the early church, men

had a leadership role. (1 Tim. 2:12) The church of Christ has nothing new to offer except what is old. That which is old is actually new in our world.

AN OLD-FASHIONED STANDARD OF AUTHORITY. God's way is the right way. There has to be a standard that guides us in all that we do. Man often wants to be that authority (Judges 21:25). People want it their way. As stated in Rom. 1:28: "Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge..." Some folks just don't like being told what to do. Jesus has all authority today in heaven and one earth. (Matt. 28:18)

AN OLD-FASHIONED SALVATION. It was not just saying a prayer. It was not just faith (Jas. 2:26). It was obedience (Rom. 6:17). It involved the blood of Jesus (Rev. 1:5); belief (John 3:16); confession (Rom. 10: 9,10); repentance (Acts 17:30); and baptism (Mark. 16:16). Let us do things God's way and we will always be right.

Faith As Defined By Hebrews 11

As Christians, we are expected to "walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7). If left to humans, walking by faith could mean just about anything. So, we need to ask, "What is God's definition of faith? What words are used by the Holy Spirit to describe what faith is? Upon what is faith based? What does faith look like? What is the ultimate blessing of faith?" The answers to these and many other questions are found in Hebrews 11.

Hebrews 11.1 begins with God's definition of faith: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (ESV/NASB). Other translations use words like "being sure/certain" (NIV); "substance/evidence" (KJV/NKJV); "confidence / assurance" (NLT). These words tell us that faith is defined as how we understand, how we feel about, and how we respond to the evidence we are given. "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that
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