

BIB 291 General Epistles

Lesson 3 Hebrews Part III A Superior Principle - Faith

Intro. This book has shown Christ to be superior to OT persons and the OT priesthood, now it reveals a superior principle – a life of faith. As it would be foolish to return to following inferior persons and an inferior priesthood it would be foolish to reject the life of faith. It is this life of faith that has been lived since the formation of the world. He begins by giving a history lesson of how past OT saints all lived a life of faith and that they endured to the end as an example.

1. The Examples of Faith (11) the importance of faith

-given chronologically

A. 1-3 A description of faith

1. its definition
2. its models - the elders (past saints) “the Hall of Faith”

-brother Rusty mentioning his heroes

3. its object - the word of God - illustrated by creation

B. 4-12 A display of faith - up to Abraham

1. Abel - faith accepted v.4
2. Enoch - faith pleasing vs.5-6
3. Noah - faith works v.7
4. Abraham - faith obeys without sight vs.8-10
5. Sarah - faith believes the impossible vs. 11-12

C. 13-16 A declaration of faith vs. 13-16

D. 17-31 A descent of faith - after Abraham Note: Abraham is the father of faith

1. Abraham offering his only begotten son vs. 17-19
2. Isaac - blessing his children believing God’s promises v. 20
3. Jacob v. 21
4. Joseph v. 22
5. Moses vs. 23-28
6. Israel - entering promised land and defeating Jericho vs. 29-30
7. Rahab v. 31
8. Other OT examples vs. 32-38

a. examples of faiths power 32-35a

b. examples of faiths persecution 35b-38

E. 39-40 Paul masterfully including them with these saints

Note: what will your report be?

2. The Endurance of Faith (12) the importance of hope

A. Finish the race 1-4

B. Endure chastisement 5-11

C. Beware of quitting 12-17

D. Final warning - refers back to the introduction

1. Contrast Sinai with the New Jerusalem 18-24

2. Contrast God with prophets 25-29

Trans. He really concludes his main argument at the end of twelve and now proceeds to give general exhortations about how they particularly should continue by living a life of faith.

3. The Exercise of Faith (13) the importance of Love

A. love of faith 1-3

1. brotherly love
2. hospitality to strangers
3. afflicted and imprisoned

B. lifestyle of faith 4-7

1. moral lifestyle 4
2. material lifestyle 5
3. mental lifestyle 6
4. ministerial lifestyle 7

C. longevity of faith 8-16

1. spiritual stability - Christ's consistency 8
2. spiritual suffering - willingness to suffer without the camp with Christ 9-14
3. spiritual sacrifices - continue offering them 15-16
4. spiritual submission 17
5. spiritual struggle - Paul's prayer requests 18-19
6. spiritual strength 20-21

D. 22-25 Salutation

Conclusion

This book does not anticipate that the life of faith will be easy. It assumes to the contrary that there will be many trials and temptations and obstacles to be overcome and that the way to accomplish this is by faith to inherit the promises.