

INTRODUCTION

1. Jn 3:3 *unless one is born again he cannot see*
2. Persevering faith - living, active - evidence of new birth.
 - i. Heb 10:35-36 - doing God's will; v37-38 conflates Isa 26:19-21 & Hab 2:4. v39 - persevere, not shrink back: warn of apostasy.
 - ii. Either or: persevere or apostatize; fiery judgment or promised reward
 - iii. Living faith produces good works in view of *thgs not seen* Heb 11:1

1st: Faith Sees Things Not Seen: The Creator

1. Faith sees thgs revealed by word of God - not seen w/ natural sight.
2. *Thgs not seen* = God Himself - 1T 6:15-16

2nd: Faith Sees Things Not Seen: The Creation

1. God, *whom no man can see* is yet known to man - Rom 1:16-20
 - i. Paul's thesis = Hab 2:4 [v17]. Paul begins w/ warning of wrath.
 - ii. Sin seen in context of creation - 2Q Creation is self-generating; not eternal: it is not God & God is not creature.
 - iii. Men *w/o excuse* for idolatry v21-23. Paganism worships creation v25
 - iv. *Wrath of God* [v18]: God gives men over: sexual promiscuity [v24]; sexual perversion [v26-27]; depravity of mind & moral insanity [v28]
 - v. Paul in Athens [A 17] & Lystra [A 14] - preach gospel beginning w/ creation. The good Creator has good news for repentant sinners!
2. Heb 11:1 *Thgs not seen* - angels & demons - Heb 1:14. Docts of demons [1T 4:1] - Satanic strategy: *Indeed has God said...?*
3. Creation - Hb 1:1-3a Son = Creator & Sustainer. Reality is word- saturated; medium for theological communication; purpose. Col 1:15-20
 - a. *image of invisible God* - revealed in incarnate Son
 - b. *Ist-born of all creation* - rightful heir of creation
 - c. *all created thru & for Him; before all thgs & holds all thgs together* - [Heb 1:3; 2:10]. Meaning & purpose of Personal Creator: Creation speaks to us! [Psa 19:1-4].

- d. John Wheeler: "When I 1st started studying, I saw the world as composed of particles. Looking more deeply I discovered waves. Now after a lifetime of study, it appears that all existence is the expression of information."
4. Heb 11:1 *thgs not seen* concerns our perspective on creation - v3
 - i. 1st *by faith* of 19 in chpt 11 - 10:38 live *by faith*. Our faith begins & ends chpt 11 - v40
 - ii. *we understand* Augustine: "I believe therefore I understand." Mod'ism: Unless I understand, I won't believe. PostMod: I can't understand & I refuse to believe.
 - iii. *the worlds* = *ages* [time & space] - Hb 1:2; 9:26.
 - iv. *were prepared* = arrange into proper rlnshps to function
 - v. *by the word of God* - spoken Word - Heb 1:1-2; Psa 33:6
 - vi. *so that* = result: visible originates in invisible
 - vii. We see creation but not its origins. Creator & creation.
5. Synonymous parallel structure of v3. *was prepared* // *was made*; *the worlds* // *what is seen*; *by the Word of God* // *thgs not visible*
6. Heb 11:1-3 Xns - *by faith* know the Creator's creation.

Summary & A Sober Insight

1. 11:1 *assurance, conviction & hope* - in *thgs not seen*: thgs from the past: God as Creator of creation.
2. The Word of God is the revelation of thgs not seen - promise for *the world to come* [Hb 2:5]. Hope in world to come is built on understanding that God created this present world.
3. Faith in Son of God as our Savior includes faith in Him as our Creator.
4. "Sober Insight"? 1T 4:1-5 Satan's front-line attack on created order: men's sexuality & material creaturely being. Remove the unseen realities of creation & obscure the unseen realities of our promised reward in the world to come - based on gospel of resurrected Lord.
 - i. Satan slithers up to us & says, *indeed has God said?*
 - ii. Heb 11 will answer "YES". Heb 10:35-36.
 - iii. By faith in the word of God, we see invisible things.