

INTRODUCTION

1. Heb 11 *grt cloud of witnesses* [12:1].
2. Did Apollos write Hebrews? A 18:24 *eloquent* = Grk rhetoric & a Jew who was *mighty in* [OT] *Script*. Lessons from rhetorical skill of Author.

1st: What Is This List?

1. "Speech-act theory:" words perform acts. What is Author doing w/ list?
 - i. Exhorts us to perseverance - rhetorical peer pressure.
2. *Faith* or *faithful* - 33x in Hebs - 23x in chpt 11. Repeats *by faith* = emph.
3. Operative principle is that of imitation
 - i. Positive example - Heb 6:11-12; 13:7 [1C 11:1].
 - ii. Negative example - Heb 4:11.
 - iii. The impetus of imitation - we are *image of God* - made to imitate.
 - iv. Parents - esp'ly fathers - Ex 34:7. *Image of God* = rlnshp of sonship.
 - v. Peers: - for good or ill [Prv 1]
 - vi. Hebs 11 gives us a sanctified peer group to imitate

2nd: Notice the Context

1. Hebs' focus = persevering faith, sanctif, NCov fidelity to Jesus: *better*
2. Pre-context = 10:36-39 & Post-context = 12:1-11 Jesus: paradigm of the believer. v3, v7, v11. Love Father, be trained as son & endure to harvest

3rd: Notice the Structure of the Text

1. Rhetoric is not mere style, but used to make argument - Heb 11:1-12:3
2. Anaphora - repetitive sound - *by faith, by faith, by faith*.
3. Notice those listed... see arrangement? Redemptive history to Jesus - 12:2
 - i. upheld by the faithfulness of the Lord - Hb 6:17-18
 - ii. Where are we? Inclusio - 11:3, 40. In NCov [Jer 31:31-34 in chpt 8 & 10] - *better*: on verge of Sab rest [Hb 4]. God is faithful.
4. Midst of list - v6 & v13-16 exiles in 2nd Exodus
5. Inclusio - *approval* - v2 & v39. Chpt 11 concerns living an approved life

4th: The Necessity of Judgment

1. Judge w/ wisdom, discernment - Jn 7:24. We are judged: *gain approval*.
2. What is being judged? The *it* in 11:2 = life of faith by *men of old*.
3. *approval* [v2;39] = *witness* [12:1]; *testify* [*martyr*] 11:2 ESV, KJV, NIV
 - i. Honored by men? - *well spoken of* [A 10:22; 16:2; 22:12]; *of good reputation* [A 6:3; 1T 5:10]
 - ii. Found in OT Hb 7:17 *attested*; Hb 10:15 *testifies* cites OT.
 - iii. 11:4-5 Who *testifies*? God. Being judged by God is reality [2C 5:10]
 - iv. *gain approval* = judged positively by God - testimony, verified
4. Not justification by faith but *living by faith* - demonstrating faith by deeds of loving obedience: evidence wh/ God approves, validates - testifies.
 - i. See Jms 2:18; 2:20; 2:26 - *show faith*; not *useless*; not *dead*.
 - ii. R 2:13 - *the doers of the Law will be justified - acquitted* in 1C 4:4
5. Being judged is a huge motivator to live life of faith. Fear judgment of men or God. Jn 12:42-43. Wld Nicodemus be on list? [R 2:29; 2C 10:18]
6. Being well spoken of by men is a good thg. Mt 5:16 - good works seen by men. We achieve that by not living for the approval of men!
7. We NEED to be judged - by God - gives us meaning

5th: The Impact of Godly Examples

1. Consider role of godly community - Eph 4; 1C 12 - body.
2. Hb 10:23-25 See impact of *one another*?
3. Whose godly example has HS used in your life?
4. Think of the example we are giving to each other. Recall example of *witnesses* who have gone on before us.
5. Who is looking at you to be their example? When we are simply faithful the HS uses us for one another's eternal good & we live a live wh/ God approves & wh/ brings glory to the name of Jesus Christ: AMEN