

And These All

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Hebrews 11:39-40 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

- I. Hebrews 11 is a catalog of some of the more well-known people who lived by and died in faith.
 - A. It is an overview of the working of God in the redemption of man through the ages.
 - B. One of the main purposes of this chapter is to cause us to view things as a whole instead of making our life and our interests all in all.
 - C. The Bible here is trying to get us to look at the working of God as a relay race and we are all just carrying the ball for a short run before passing it off to the next generation.

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

- II. They all had that forward look and viewed themselves as just one of the runners in this relay race to eternity.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Hebrews 11:14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

- A. We could back up and show the same thing in those mentioned before, but after Abraham we are told that by faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau “concerning things to come.”

Hebrews 11:20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

1. There is the forward look, the promises given to his father Abraham from God that he has also embraced and hung all his hopes upon.
- B. The we read Jacob’s words to Joseph as he is about to die with the same looking forward..

Genesis 48:3-4 And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession.

Genesis 48:21 And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers.

- C. Then we see Joseph just before he died confirming the same hope.

Hebrews 11:22 By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

Genesis 50:24-26 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence. So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

- D. We then read about Moses forsaking Egypt and all its opportunities for him because he had set his affections somewhere else.

Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

- III. It is amazing how modern Christianity has turned all this life of faith into a self-seeking, self-loving, self-serving idolatrous religion that is for the here and now only.
 - A. No one can deny that most professing Christians are mainly interested in what God can do for them now and have little thought of eternity.
 - B. Not only that, but neither do they feel any kinship or responsibility toward those who have come before or those who will follow after.
 - C. It is all about me, my life, my interests, my problems, my burdens, my needs, my happiness, right now in this life.
 - D. Almost all of the energy, resources, time, and thoughts are on this life, right now, with no view of things where I am a link in the chain, or that I am the one responsible for carrying the torch for this short run of life.
 - E. Most have no concept of faith as though they have been handed something to carry and preserve and deliver to the next generation.
- IV. If we learn anything from this chapter it should make us have a long and broad view of what a life of faith is all about.
 - A. Life is about God and his promises for the eternal future, all else is vanity and vexation of spirit.
 - B. Life is not about the here and now or prosperity or poverty or peace or affliction or self gratification or interests, but it is about the long-term working of God and his everlasting kingdom of which we are only a part.
 - C. We are a link the chain, a relay runner in this race, a temporary steward.

1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.