

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the ways we can demonstrate our faith in God?
2. Should our faith in God determine the decisions we make in life? How far should we go in these things?
3. How may our faith be tested?
4. What should be our desire? What does God promise us? (see verse 16)
5. Are works necessary in our lives to show our faith?

SUMMARY:

What a testimony and encouragement is the definition of faith. How often we have read this chapter and have been encouraged in our faith as we read of those who have recorded for us such a wonderful testimonial.

We see in their record a challenge that we too ought to please God. Yes, we must please Him if we are to have a part in the inheritance. We must desire a better country even as the patriarchs of old desired it. We must deny self and be willing to go to any degree in serving God. Just as Moses gave up a life of luxury and ease and was subjected to life as a shepherd, so likewise we must sacrifice self to be used of God.

The result will be assurance that we shall be heirs and joint-heirs with Jesus.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

September 18, 2005

Third Quarter

THE BELIEVER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

LESSON TEXT: *Hebrews 11:1-40*

LESSON SETTING: Written from Italy by Paul to the Palestinian Jews.

TIME: Approximately 64 A.D.

I. DESCRIPTION OF FAITH. Hebrews 11:1-3

- A. Definition (vs. 1)
- B. Effect of Faith (vs. 2-3) Psalm 34:22; Isaiah 26:3; Romans 8:1; 2 Timothy 1:12

II. DEMONSTRATION OF FAITH. Hebrews 11:4-22

- A. A Good Witness (vs. 4) 1 John 3:24; 4:13
- B. Pleasing to God (vs. 5) 1 Thessalonians 4:1; Hebrews 13:16
- C. Spiritual Insight (vs. 13) Psalm 34:5; 1 Corinthians 13:12
- D. Spiritual Desire (vs. 16) Psalms 38:9; 73:25

III. DECISION BY FAITH. Hebrews 11:23-31

- A. Decision by Trust (vs. 23) Psalm 125:1 Proverbs 29:25
- B. Leads to Self-denial (vs. 24-27) Matthew 16:24; Romans 8:13
- C. Leads to Victory and Salvation (vs. 30-31) John 11:25; Romans 8:35-37

IV. DETERMINATION BY FAITH. Hebrews 11:32-40

- A. Overcoming Obstacles (vs. 33-34) 1 Samuel 14:6; 2 Timothy 1:12
- B. Enduring Persecution (vs. 35-37) Psalm 17:3; Zechariah 13:9; 1 Corinthians 3:13
- C. A Glorious Inheritance (vs. 40) Matthew 25:34; John 14:2

GOLDEN TEXT: *NOW FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN.*

Hebrews 11:1

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Hebrews 12:1-29

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Genesis 25:24-34; Exodus 19:10-20
Deuteronomy 8:1-20
2 Peter 1:2-12

QUARTERLY THEME: BOOK OF "HEBREWS"

TOPIC: THE BELIEVER'S DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION:

In studying chapter 11 we see a list of many witnesses who have gone before us. The Apostle calls our attention to all of these witnesses and makes a marked reference to our need of separating from ourselves anything that would hinder us in running the race that is set before us. In other words we should let nothing be present in our lives that would weaken us or make us unfit to attain the prize.

We are reminded too that God chastises those whom He loves. Just as a father chastises a disobedient child so that child can learn the lessons of life, so likewise God chastens us. We must not become discouraged in this but rather let it work its purpose in us.

We must live our lives circumspectly before God. We must put aside the things of this life and put on the things of God. We must live holy, peaceable lives if we are to see the Lord. Those who lack in this shall not see Him. One thing to which the Apostle makes reference is bitterness which apparently afflicts many people and has terrible effects. May we find grace to recognize this evil if it is present in us and with God's help cast it from us.

Lastly, we must serve God. We cannot serve two masters. God is a jealous God and will not tolerate anything less than total yieldedness to Him. How do we stand in the sight of God?

CENTRAL TRUTH: By allowing God to work in our lives we come to spiritual maturity.

GOLDEN TEXT: *LET US LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT, AND THE SIN WHICH DOTHSO EASILY BESET US, AND LET US RUN WITH PATIENCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US.*

Hebrews 12:1

It is often easier said than done! Yet in reference to spiritual things it is so important for us to fight a good fight, or to run the race.

In the field of athletics, a coach sets down stringent rules to be followed by all members of the team. A player must not "drink" because that weakens his senses and his ability to think. He must not "smoke" because that causes shortness of breath. He must not "overeat" because that makes him sluggish. In other words he must lay aside every weight that besets him.

Spiritually, our separation is even more distinct and exacting because what we do, often is displeasing to God. It robs us of time and talents that should be used for Him. Whatever we do, we should ask ourselves the question "Will this glorify God? Are we using our physical stamina and our mental capacities to serve Him?"

Let us ask ourselves if we are laying aside every weight as well as the sins that take our time and talent from the service of the Lord. Let us ask ourselves: "Is the race we are running - the race of materialism and self-satisfaction or is it the spiritual race which requires the giving of our all to Him?"

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF September 19 - 25

M. *Pathway to Growth. Hebrews 12:1-7

T. *Method of Growth. Hebrews 12:9-14

W. *Obeying the Call to Growth. Hebrews 12:15-29

T. Carnality - the Enemy to Growth. Genesis 25:24-34

F. Guidelines for Growth. Exodus 19:10-20

S. Process of Growth. 2 Peter 1:2-12

S. Reason for Growth. 2 Peter 3:11-18