

Hebrews

Encouragement to Endurance in Faith (10:32-39)

Examples of Faith 11:1-40

Encouragement to endurance in faith

- After the warning that:
 - “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God” - the writer redirects the readers attention
 - “But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings...”
 - After conversion the 1st century readers were persecuted. Now, later, don’t forget those events.

Encouragement to endurance in faith

- “Partly..”
 - Some were either literally or figuratively publicly insulted
 - This doesn’t mean they were put on display in an amphitheater, though it could have happened
 - Figuratively, once accepting Jesus as Messiah they were made targets for unbelievers and the government
 - Some were mistreated because of association
 - Some were mistreated just for visiting Christians in prison

Encouragement to endurance in faith

- Some examples of persecution...
 - These Hebrew Christians showed sympathy toward prisoners and suffered seizure of their property
 - Prisoners in the Roman Empire were not fed and could starve in prison. Their only hope was a visiting friend to bring food and clothing. These friends could be imprisoned as sympathizers.
 - Seizure of property could be a result of being branded a sympathizer or of mob looting.

Encouragement to endurance in faith

- “...knowing that you have for yourselves a better and lasting possession.”
 - We all understand the fleeting nature of earthly possessions.
 - Jesus warned about placing our trust in such (Mat 6:20)
 - These Christians were commended for seeking out heavenly possessions

Encouragement to endurance in faith

- “Therefore”
 - The writer has commended them for their past actions – now he appeals to them in the present
- “Don’t throw away your confidence...”
 - Reckless rejection of the same confidence we have to approach the throne of grace (10:19)
 - Boldness in their witness of Christ and response to persecutors

Encouragement to endurance in faith

- “...which has great *reward*.”
 - *gr- misthapodosia* – requital (good or bad)
recompense of reward
 - Translated “penalty” at 2:2
 - The correlation between men’s deeds in this life and the reward (or punishment) to be received in the next
 - Jesus reminds us... (Luke 6:22-23)
 - Reward is a motivator an encouragement to faith

Encouragement to endurance in faith

- Endurance!
 - Endurance = Faithfulness
 - What good you've done in the past is commendable, but you need to continue
 - Christians must be focused on DOING the will of God in whatever form that God requires of us
 - Our journey leads to "the rest" promised (4:1)
 - OT quotes – Isaiah 26:30, Habakkuk 2:2-4)

Encouragement to endurance in faith

- The writer encourages these former Hebrew Christians to endure
 - Including himself, he reminds them they are not among those whose path leads to destruction
 - Faithfulness is the condition upon which salvation is granted
 - Our faith will preserve our souls (Luke 21:19)

Faithfulness is the true characteristic of Gods people

- Faith is...
 - Assurance – a title deed - a man who is faithful has a title deed to all God has promised for the future. (Revelation 2:10)
 - Conviction of things not seen
 - Even though we do not yet have the reward we are confident that through faith it IS OURS

Faithfulness is the true characteristic of Gods people

- By faith...
 - Men of old gained approval
 - We understand...
 - No man witnessed the creation but by faith we understand God performed the action
 - God SPOKE the universe into existence
 - Not a big bang of hypercompressed energy, but SOMETHING from NOTHING.
 - God CREATED. He did not REORGANIZE

Examples of Faith

- Before the flood...
 - Abel – better sacrifice
 - Enoch – was pleasing to God and did not die
 - Noah – prepared an ark
- Faith led these men to righteousness and their righteousness was demonstrated by their works

Examples of Faith

- In the Patriarchal Age
 - Abraham – was called, was tested - obeyed
 - Sarah – conceived
 - Isaac – blessed Jacob and Esau
 - Jacob – blessed Josephs sons
 - Joseph – foretold the Exodus
- All showing their righteousness in their deeds and belief

Examples of Faith

- In the Mosaic Age
 - Moses – was hidden, gave up royalty, left Egypt, kept the Passover, Passed through the Red Sea
 - Jericho fell
 - Rahab – hid the spies
 - Judges –
 - David
 - Samuel and the prophets
- All these having gained approval through FAITH!

Examples of Faith

- Jesus
 - The PERFECT example of faithfulness
 - All the previous witnesses testify about a faith like Jesus'
 - Fix our eyes ON JESUS!
 - ENDURED the cross
 - He is OUR example of how to weather the storms of life

Next week

- Hebrews 12:4-17
 - Exhortation concerning Perils that threaten a life of faithfulness