



Sunday, January 9, 2022

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Hebrews 11:1-3

What is true faith? That is an important question that every person needs to answer. If we are saved by grace alone *through faith alone*, then we ought to understand what that means. Now, to be sure, it is not understanding the definition of faith that saves, but the possession of true faith. Nevertheless, it is difficult to possess it if you don't really know what it is.

The Heidelberg Catechism asks that very question, "What is true faith?" The answer given is, "True faith is not only a certain knowledge, whereby I hold for truth all that God has revealed to us in his word, but also an assured confidence, which the Holy Spirit works by the gospel in my heart; that not only to others, but to me also, remission of sin, everlasting righteousness and salvation, are freely given by God, merely of grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits." (Q21)

It's amazing that that was the definition the Reformers expected their children to memorize! While we may not ask the same of children in our time, it is important that we have a definition of faith that reflects the truth of Scripture. It is one thing to know the good news of Jesus, it's another thing to believe it—to have faith in it that perseveres until the end.

Context

Hebrews 11 is the great chapter of faith. It gives a brief definition, which, while very important and necessary to the argument the author is making, is not exhaustive. The author's argument is that even though things look bad right now for Christians, our faith has never been about what is seen. We act on the promises of God (many of) which remain unfulfilled at the present time—including the reality of His very existence. This argument will be developed throughout chapter 11 with numerous examples from Scripture.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Hebrews 10:35 – 11:3

“Faith Is...”

Faith is confidence

Faith is commendable

Faith is sight

Discuss

- 1) How would you define “faith” in your own words?
- 2) What must we believe in order to be a Christian?
- 3) How does God instill faith in us?
- 4) What is the alternative to faith in Christ?
- 5) What is at stake when it comes to persevering in the faith?