



Introduction to Hebrews 11:1-6

Sunday, June 11, 2017
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Hebrews is written to a group of people whose faith was wavering. These were people who were persecuted to the point that they were considering abandoning their commitment to Christ to return to their former way of life in Judaism. They were struggling to take God at His word—that He would sustain them in the midst of trials and that ultimately He was preparing a place for them that was far better than these earthly places they had known. He accomplished reconciliation through the one-time, perfect sacrifice of His Son and was preparing them to come into His presence for eternity.

As such, Hebrews provides us with a great reminder that it is God who accomplishes great things on our behalf. We inherit those great things, not by virtue of our religious duties or good moral behavior—we inherit them by faith. What’s more, the things that God is doing cannot now be seen. Just like the many people in the Old Testament who took God at His word and lived according to His commands even though they didn’t see the immediate benefit, we too need to be reminded that living a life of faith doesn’t always reap immediate rewards but it will keep us close to God and equip us with everything good so that we can do His will and live a life that is pleasing to Him.

Context

The specific context of the Enoch story goes back to Genesis 5. In that chapter, we see that God fulfills His warning that eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil results in death. Yet, Enoch mysteriously does not die, but is “taken up” so that he does not taste death. Because of Enoch’s mysterious reference in the Old Testament, he has been the subject of many ancient writings which are not inspired Scripture. In all of these writings, though, Enoch is still spoken of as a righteous man who takes God at His word even in the unseen event of final judgment (see Jude 14-15).

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.)*

“He Was Not, For God Took Him”

Read Hebrews 11:1-6

Hebrews 11

- The Meaning of Faith v. 1
- The Importance of Faith v. 3
 - o Heb. 10:38
 - o Heb. 11:6
- Illustrations of Faith v. 4

Genesis 5.21 Enoch

- Difficult Times ch. 3-5
- Crisis v. 22
- Walking v. 22-24
- Taken v. 24

Walking with God

- Same Direction – Path
- Conscious – Presence
- Harmony – Peace
- Same Pace

Hebrews 11

- By faith he was taken
- Could not be found – search?
- He pleased God – by faith

Regret

- How sad it would be to come to the end of your life with this regret—I missed out on the very thing I was created for—to walk with God!

Discuss

- 1) When you hear the word 'faith' what kinds of things come to mind?

- 2) Faith is closely linked with repentance. Faith, in the context of Hebrews 11, means taking God at His word and living accordingly. Repentance is the change of mind and action that aligns us with God's word. Is it possible to have faith without repentance, or repentance without faith? Why or why not?

- 3) Pastor Don said that repentance is a daily thing. What does your daily habit of repentance look like?

- 4) Read Genesis 5:1-31. Repetition is something many biblical authors use to drive home a point. What is repeated in these verses? And what point is the author trying to make by using that repetition?

- 5) How does faith allow us to overcome the hopelessness and despair that is communicated in Genesis 5 and in many other places in Scripture?