

FAITH GOD COMMENDS

(05/07/2023; Hebrews 11:1-7; Craig Hurty; Christ Proclamation Church)

Sermon Theme: Our present faith is based on truths we can't fully see. Yet, creation and Old Testament believers witness God's faithfulness to His redemptive plan. Therefore, we can trust Jesus Christ as our Savior and have assurance in life, death, and God's judgment.

I. Faith That Believes – Read Hebrews 11:1

- A. How does the end of Hebrews 10 connect to Hebrews 11? What does perseverance have to do with faith? How does faith motivate our perseverance amid trials?

- B. Read Hebrews 11:1. According to the text, what is faith? Based on our definition, would you say that the Christian life is a daily exercise of “blind faith,” as the world would have us believe?

- C. The author writes, “Faith is the assurance of things hope for.” What is it that the Christian hopes for? How can we have assurance and conviction of what is hoped for?

- D. How do worldviews – whether atheistic or theistic – necessitate some degree of “faith”? How does this passage help us see that faith and reason are not at odds but work in harmony?

II. Faith That Testifies – Read Hebrews 11:2-6

- A. Read Hebrews 11:2-4. How does Abel still speak, though he is dead? Why was Abel commended as righteous? In what ways did his faith get him killed?

- B. Read Genesis 5:22-24 and Jude 14-15. Why was Enoch commended by God? How might the other two references help our understanding of God's commendation of his life?

- C. Hebrews 11:6 says, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” How would you interpret this verse? What does the author list as necessary truths that Christians must believe about God?

- D. When you think about your life, in what ways should your faith testify to who God is and what He has done?

III. Faith That Perseveres – Read Hebrews 11:7

- A. Read Hebrews 11:7. In what ways does Noah demonstrate the assertion the author makes about faith in verses 1 and 6? How does Noah's faith “condemn the world”?

- B. How does a love and knowledge of God's Word bolster our faith in both the good days and difficult days of life?

- C. Faith looks back at what God has done and then looks forward to what He has promised. How would you like to grow actively in “looking back and looking forward” to strengthen you and increase your faith? How might we help one another fight for faith throughout the week?