

FAITH AND FUTURE GLORY

(05/14/2023; Life Group; Hebrews 11:8-22; Steve Thiel; Christ Proclamation Church)

Sermon Theme: True faith in Christ not only lives a life of obedience to God's will, but also perseveres even in the midst of trials. When we look back at God's faithfulness to His promises; namely, Christ's once for all sacrifice for our salvation, we can look forward with great confidence!

I. Faith and Obedience – Read Hebrews 11:8-12

- A. Read Genesis 12:1-9. What was God's call on Abraham's life and how did he respond? How does Hebrews 11:8-10 describe his actions and his motivations?
- B. Read Genesis 17:15-17. What are your thoughts regarding a 100 year old man and a 90 year old woman having a baby? How does Hebrews 11:11-12 summarize Sarah's response?
- C. As you think about it, do you think that faith and reason on contradictory terms? Or do you think faith and reason work together? How do you think about those two ideas?
- D. The author makes it clear that obedience is an outworking of true faith. How would you define obedience? How do you strive for obedience when it seems difficult, frustrating, or a burden?

II. Faith and Perseverance – Read Hebrews 11:13-16

- A. Who are the "all" in Hebrews 11:13? How would you interpret verses 13-14? How did these people die in faith and why is the author describing their journey in terms of a "city"?
- B. What do you think it means that they died in faith without receiving the things promised?
- C. What do you think it looks like to "desire a better country"? How do we cultivate a growing passion for "a better country"? How does that desire transform the way that we live?
- D. What does it look like to live our lives as "strangers and exiles on the earth"? Would you consider yourself a stranger to this world or a citizen of this world? How are we to live as sojourners seeking the city to come while being commissioned to make Christ known?

III. Faith and Trials – Read Hebrews 11:17-22

- A. What are the different ways that faith and trials are highlighted throughout this passage? As you think about the original audience, why do you think the author highlights faith and trials?
- B. Read Hebrews 11:17-19. Why is Abraham's testing significant? What did Abraham believe God would do through the sacrifice, and how is that highlighted in Genesis 22:1-14?
- C. How might the hope of future glory stir our faith in the midst of trials? As you think about your own heart, what holds your attention in trials: the circumstances or the promises of God? How does looking forward to the future glory of God's presence enable us to persevere now?