“By Faith” Pt. XIII

Intro: This morning in our 13th sermon entitled “By Faith” we come to the close of the 11th chapter of Hebrews and in so doing we come to a most ________________ passage that demands our utmost ________________ and must be met with clear-minded deliberation for at this point we begin to read of those saints of Old who for their faith in God suffered and persevered even unto death, the death of a martyr.

A. Having read in the 32nd through 34th verses of those like Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets who by __________ conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, (and) escaped the edge of the sword,” we now read of those who by faith steadfastly ________________ as they “were tortured, not accepting their release ... (and) experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment (and) were stoned, ... sawn in two, ... (and) put to death with the sword ...”

B. The Christian faith is not about escaping the sword but about __________ing __________ while facing the sword, come what may. Shall we preach that those who have enough faith will always escape the sword when in fact, here the faithful are commended for enduring while suffering the sword?

C. Our text shows that true faith in God __________ the same in every believer. Whether the believer experiences great victory or great tragedy faith always works the same: _________________. Therefore the true believer is “not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul” (cf. Heb 10:39).

I. __________:

A. These women of Old ________________ back their dead by resurrection, God’s ________________ visiting them in this special way on account of Him being pleased with them for their faith in Him.

B. Others ________________

1. These of whom the author speaks were offered their release if they would only renounce their trust in God. But __________ __________ holds the believer upright not allowing for compromise for it sees the One in whom they trust as supreme and of truth, love, loyalty and duty faith will __________ __________ nor abandon Him.

C. The people of Old ________________ being mocked, scourged, chained and imprisoned, stoned, sawn in two, tempted, and death by the sword. But beloved, these all died in faith believing God ______ His promise of the better ________________!
D. They went about having only sheep and goat skins for covering, having been made destitute by means of persecution yet ____________ God. They were sorely afflicted by others, ill-treated by their own brethren, made outcasts, set to wander about looking for places of safety in the deserts and mountains, living in caves and holes in the ground yet trusting ____________!

1. This fallen world is not worthy of the _______________ people of faith! This faith is so high and holy that those who possess it are deemed by God as worth more than the entire world in its totality! How ____________ His people for being of the faith so is He pleased in them!

2. And dear Hebrew and church alike, if these suffered such things as these and their faith in the coming Messiah prevailed, then how much more will this ____________ in the Messiah who came and suffered the cross ____________ ?

F. All these people of Old ____________ God’s ________________ through their faith. They did not gain the approval of God through works of the Law, nor through the offering of animal sacrifices, nor through the keeping of ceremony or tradition, nor even through the ordained work of the O.T. priesthood but through their faith in God.

1. All these believed in God even though they did not receive the fulfillment of the promise of the coming Christ. But believing in Him who was as yet unseen, they were ________________ __________ ________ and so did they receive a crown of life!

II. Here the Author tells us that God _______________ something better ____________.

A. Oh, how ________ has favored us! In the wise plan of God, of His own choosing, according to His own sovereign grace, He smiled upon us (the Hebrews of the day and us today as the church), in the ________________ of His ________ when He did.

B. God’s timing is impeccable, and His grace toward us unsearchable. While the people of Old lived and died by faith looking for the coming Christ, we can live and die by faith looking upon the Christ, for ________________ __________ ____________!

C. MacArthur writes, “God has provided this ‘something better’ for us, that is for those under the New Covenant which is why apart from us they should not be made perfect. That is not until our time, the time of Christianity, could their (the people of Old) ________________ be ________________, made perfect.”

Closing: If these of Old lived and died by faith, and that faith in the God of the promise worked such perseverance in them even though they never saw the promised Christ, how much more then should we endure by faith in the ________________ who ______ ________, whom we know?

By the gracious will of God, we who live under the New Covenant of Jesus Christ are a most privileged people. Let us follow in the ________________ of the heroes of Old, and looking upon the Christ ________________ unto the end, realizing God’s full approval, realizing the full greatness of His salvation toward us.

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