

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning 12-27-20
“Faith and Sacrifice”

1. Introduction:

a. Looking Back to Look Forward:

- 1) What is the THEREFORE there for?
 - a) We need to look back at Hebrews 11
- 2) Faith – Trust in, Adhere to, Rely on (Romans 10:9)
- 3) Heroes of the Faith
 - a) They did great things – Hebrews 11:3-11
 - b) They overcame great adversity – Hebrews 11:17, 23, 24-31, 32-34
- 4) The OTHERS (11:35)
 - a) Tortured, not accepting deliverance (they refused to recant), trials of cruel mockings and scourgings
 - b) Bonds and imprisonment, stoned, sawn asunder, tempted
 - c) Slain with the sword
 - d) Wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins
 - e) Destitute, afflicted, tormented, wandered in deserts and mountains and dens and caves

b. Taking a look ahead:

1) Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...

- a) Salvation is by grace through faith, the law is powerless to save
- b) Therefore – WAKE UP - PAY ATTENTION - YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DO

c. Unhitch the Trailer

- 1) Weights and Sin must be stripped away and cast off
 - a) Weight – 1 Corinthians 10:23
 - Permissible does not equal expedience
 - b) Sin
 - Lust, relationships, pornography, speech, personal responses

2. Run the Race – Hebrews 12:1b

a. Recognize the reality

- 1) Fatigue, sore, hurt, injured, worn out
- 2) Will I ever reach the finish line? I just want to be done, I give up...

b. Focus Matters – Hebrews 12:2

- 1) “Looking unto Jesus...”

- a) We have examples of endurance – Remain firm under suffering without yielding
 - Stephen, Matthew, James, Phillip, Andrew, Mark, Peter, Luke
 - Lawrence – minister of church sacraments
 - Martyrs for the faith
 - b) Jesus is our ultimate example of endurance
- 2) Our mind is centered on Him
- a) V. 3 – “For consider Him”
 - Active thought not past tense
 - b) Mental Toughness – “lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds”
- 3) We have not yet begun to suffer or sacrifice
- a) V. 4 – “Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”
 - b) Many of us have no concept of what it means to sacrifice for our faith
 - c) Many of us have not concept of what it means to STRIVE AGAINST SIN
3. Today's Takeaway:
- a. What is the weight and sin that needs to be thrown off and cast away?
 - b. Are you looking unto Jesus?
 - c. Are you thinking about Him?