

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?