

“Hebrews #15”

Hebrews 12: 3-17

Review: Last week 11: 1-39 thru 12: 1-2... Looked at faith and many examples of faith from the heroes of faith. (Abel, Enoch, Abraham, Sarah... Moses, Rahab...)

- These all died not receiving the promise but **believed in the promises of God.**
- Looked for a heavenly country and confessed that this world was not their home.
- We also looked at the statement of faith.

11: 1 *“Now faith is the substance (assurance) of things hoped for, the evidence (conviction) of things not seen.”*

11: 6 *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to GOD **must believe that he is**, and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*

- Surrounded by those that have gone before us, we are to make every effort to lay aside every weight and sin that hinders us.
- Looking unto Jesus the **author and finisher** of our faith... to everyone He has given a measure of faith.

Brings us to our study tonight:

(Text) 12:3-4 (Read)

- Consider Jesus, who endured persecution, temptation and suffering.
- He endured the cross, the shedding of His blood... for our salvation.
- When there is all kinds of preaching today, we live in a generation of itching ears searching for the next great revelation or the latest new teaching...

PAUL WRITES:

1 Cor. 1: 22-23 *“For Jews request a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”*

1 Cor. 2: 2,4-5 *“I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified... my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the spirit of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of man but in the power of God.”*

(Text) 12:5-6 (Read)

MESSAGE BIBLE: 4a-6 (Very insightful)

“In this all-out match against sin, others have suffered far worse than you... have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as children? My dear child, don't shrug off God's discipline, but don't be crushed by it either. It's the child He loves that He disciplines; the child He embraces, He also corrects.”

(Text) 12: 7 (Read)

(NKJV) *“If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons...”*

(ESV) *“It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons.”*

- I've read many translations; none seemed clear to me.
- I understood them but I felt something was missing in my understanding. Until...

(NIV) *“Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as His children. For what children are not disciplined by their father.”*

(Text) 12:7-11 (Read)

Proverbs 3: 11-12 (NKJV)

“My Son, do not despise the chastening of the lord, nor detest His correction; For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.”

Dwight Pentecost:

“Rather than despising His chastening or being discouraged when sufferings come, we should welcome them as assurance that we are the sons of God, for God will chasten only those who are His own children.”

- **There is a distinction between chastening (discipline) and punishment.**
- **Jesus bore the punishment for our sin on the cross... **God forgives** all who repent and confess Christ Jesus! (His children)**

(Text) 12: 12-17 (Read)

- 1. Lift your drooping hands, strengthen your weak knees...**
- 2. Strive for peace with everyone and the holiness that comes only from God.**
- 3. Lay hold of the grace of God.**
- 4. Don't allow bitterness to spring up in you.**
- 5. Don't allow sexual immorality to get a hold of you... flee from it.**
- 6. Don't sale your birth right for the things of this world... for the pleasures of sin.**

Romans 8: 1-2 (NKJV)

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”