

Hebrews 11:1-6

LESSON 21

The Need for Faith

1. Hebrews 10:34-39 – Habakkuk and Faith

- a. “*need of patience*” – which fits Israel - Luke 21:19, James 5:10-11, Rev 14:12
- b. Habakkuk 2:3-4 speaking about the same dispensational context
- c. Hab cries “how long” and is overwhelmed by pride, sin, and unfaithfulness
- d. God promises that the just shall live by his faith, not what they see around them
- e. Paul’s use in Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11, are very different than Hab 3:17, Heb 10:38-39
- f. The need for faith (10:22) is universal, 34x in both Rom and Heb
- g. Grace, salvation, faith, God is needed for all men, what changes is the content of faith

2. Hebrews 11:1 – What is Faith

- a. “*substance*” – faith is not blind, it requires Rom 10:17
- b. “*hoped for*” – future, this means all faith requires God and his revelation
- c. “*evidence*” – not empirical (seen), nor logical (reason), but revelatory
- d. “*not seen*” – it is the knowledge of the unseen
- e. Faith is not filler for gaps in understanding – this is ignorance & superstition
- f. If there is nothing unseen, nothing to know of the future, nothing unreasonable, nothing revealed, nothing = no faith; but if there is, then faith in God is necessary.
- g. Faith is only as good as its object = “*faith*” is not enough, faith in what?
- h. Faith in good will, humanity, love, miracles, karma, angels, is all insufficient.
- i. Faith is vain without Jesus Christ - Rom 4:5, 4:25-26, 1 Cor 15:17

3. Hebrews 11:2-3 – Through Faith We Understand

- a. Faith is the knowledge of God, belief in his words (unseen) – Col 2:2, Prov 9:10
- b. Nobody was there in Genesis 1:1, but Father, Word, Holy Ghost John 1:1-3; 1John 5:7
- c. Creation did not come from material things, but by the word of God – ex nihilo
- d. Popular alternatives = that things made themselves, or that things are eternal

4. Hebrews 11:4-6 – Impossible to Please God

- a. The elders good reports follow – 11:2
- b. Abel was declared righteous by Christ’s words... so he had faith – Matt 23:35
- c. Enoch pleased God and so he had faith – Gen 5:22-24
- d. “*cometh to God*” – like Heb 10:22, 10:38-39
- e. “*believe that he is*” – His identity as God – Rom 1:21-22
- f. “*rewarder of*” the diligent = faith without works is dead – James 2:20
- g. We learn faith is necessary, Hebrews learned faith required their endurance
- h. Hebrews performed their faith, our faith is in Christ’s performance