

Faith

Heb. 11:1,6

Introduction:

- A. Faith is important. (v.6).
- B. Faith is described. (v.7).
 - 1. Not formal definition - Like "God is love".
 - 2. But describes faith's nature.
 - a. Evidence of unseen realities: Beings, events, etc.
 - b. Substance (essence) unrealized hope: Real as though already here.
- C. "Faith" has two basic connotations in the New Testament:

Discussion:

II. Objectively: The New Testament Testimony and Teaching Concerning Jesus Christ. (Jude 3).

- A. "The faith", "The truth", and "the gospel" are the same. (Col 1:23; Eph. 1:13; 2 Tim. 3:8; cf. Eph. 4:5)
 - 1. The Inspired testimony supporting His deity - with all that goes with it.
 - 2. The Inspired testimony of his teachings and expectations. (cf. 1 Tim. 5:8)
- B. "The faith" (in Christ as object of Abrahamic promise) as opposed to the law of Moses. (Gal. 3).

III. Subjectively: The Response of Individuals To "The Faith."

- A. The acceptance of the evidence - belief. (Rom. 10:6-8,17).
- B. The response to the evidence - trust and obedience. (Rom. 1:5; James 2:14-18).
- C. One may be weak or strong in his faith - degree of trust.
 - 1. "Little faith" (Matt. 6:30).
 - 2. "Great faith" (Luke 7:9).
 - 3. "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5).
- D. One may be weak or strong in "the faith" - degree of understanding of "the faith". (Rom. 14:1, 15:1).
 - 1. The weak strongly believe what they believe - understanding weak.
 - 2. Paralell to those in 1 Cor. 8:1-13).
- E. One often has his faith tested - both the degree and understanding. (Jas. 1:2,3) - power of temptation lies in appeal to immediate and visible.
 - 1. By troubles in general.
 - 2. By temptation in general.
 - 3. By exposure to human wisdom.
 - 4. By the delay of results.
 - 5. By the requirements of faith.

Conclusion:

- A. We need to honestly consider the evidence.
- B. We need believe the evidence and ground ourselves in it.
- C. We need continually refresh our minds, lest the appeal to here and now weaken our faith.