

“So Great a Salvation”

Lesson 8, for Sunday April 29, 2001

“Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since *we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.”*

Hebrews 10:19-25, NAS

“All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.”

Hebrews 11:13, NAS

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:1, NAS

The Outline

F. Call to Worship, Faith, Perseverance (10:19-12:29)

1. Access to God through the Sacrifice of Christ (10:19-25).
2. Fourth Admonition: The Willful Sin of Apostasy (10:26-31).
3. Call to perseverance (10:32-39).
4. The faith of the elders (11:1-40).
 - a. Prologue: The nature of faith (11:1-3).
 - b. The faith of the Antediluvians (11:4-7).

- c. The faith of Abraham and Sarah (11:8-12).
 - d. The City of God and homeland of the faithful (11:13-16).
 - e. More about the faith of the patriarchs (11:17-22).
 - f. The faith of Moses (11:23-28).
 - g. Faith at the exodus and settlement (11:29-31).
 - h. Further examples of faith (11:32-38).
 - i. Epilogue: Faith’s vindication comes with Christ (11:39-40).
5. Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith (12:1-3).
 6. Discipline is for legitimate children (12:4-11).
 7. Let us then be up and doing (12:12-17).
 8. The earthly Sinai and the heavenly Zion (12:18-24).
 9. Pay heed to the Voice of God! (12:25-29).

The Argument

Let us, then, abandon the old obsolescent order and approach God along this new and living way which Jesus, by his death, has opened to us. Let us maintain steadfast hope and faith in Him. Thus we shall have a firm assurance of those eternal realities which are invisible to the outward eye; we shall be able to look forward with eager expectation to the sure advent of the Coming One. It was by such forward-looking faith that the saints of earlier days won the approval of God; they lived in the light of those promises whose fulfillment has come in our day. Let us follow their example. Better still, let us follow the example of Jesus. He ran the race of faith from first to last, for all the disgrace of the cross, and is now enthroned at God’s right hand.

Let us not grow fainthearted because of our trials; these trials are the proof that we are indeed the trueborn sons of God. And think of the glory which is our heritage in this age of fulfillment - far surpassing what men and women of faith experienced in days gone by. How could we ever think of going back to the old ways?

The Key Words

πίστις -- Faith: 1. belief directed toward a person or thing (confidence, trust, reliance); 2. the essential Christianity (i.e. The Faith); 3. recognition and acceptance of Christian teaching and doctrine; 4. the decision to continue in and be loyal to Christ; 5. the conviction that brings certainty