

Well Done Faithful Servant

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Hebrews 11:1-2 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Hebrews 11:39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

1 Samuel 2:30 Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

- I. Not only does our faith determine our future state, but it also determines how we will be known and remembered.
 - A. Three times the Bible tells us that Abraham “believed God.”
 - B. The people of Ninevah “believed God.”
 - C. This whole chapter 11 of Hebrews is a role call of many who believed God through all the ages.
 - D. Their names are honored and they are identified by the fact that they believed God.
 - E. The fact that they had true effectual, saving faith in God is verified by what it accomplished by their lives.
 - F. All these people died in faith, they finished their course with faith, they fought the good fight, and were ready to be offered, and they have a crown now, which is much to do with their good name.

Proverbs 22:1 A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.

Ecclesiastes 7:1 A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

- II. We are not honored for our faith by the world we live in while we are here.
 - A. The whole world lieth in wickedness and is under the control of Satan, so there will be no honor or good report from them while we live here and walk by faith.
 - B. Believing God about sin and righteousness puts us at odds with them and they count us their enemies.
 - C. But when our life is completed here and the results come in faith always brings honor.
 - D. The sum of the life of a person who has true saving faith in Jesus Christ always brings a good report.
 - E. Even with the setbacks and faults and failings, when it is all over, it can be said of them by God and everyone else, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”
- III. Our faithful life is only a part of the whole scheme of things.
 - A. The good report we obtain by a faithful life is not based upon what we accomplish for God, but what God accomplishes through us.

- B. And what God accomplishes through us while we are living is not always visible to us or anyone else – in fact is almost never is.

Hebrews 11:13-14 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

1. By far most of the faithful saints of God through the ages were just common people who labored and toiled and raised a family and struggled through all the troubles and sorrows and disappointments of life but did so with their eye on God and hoping in his promises.

1 Corinthians 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

2. It is not the mighty, or the wise, or the noble who always obtain a good report, but the faithful.
 3. It is faith that always takes home the prize, regardless of the station in life, or the estimation of other men.
- C. We do not grade ourselves in this matter, but God and other men do.
1. God knows our heart and the thoughts of our mind, so He knows now what our faith really amounts to.
 2. Time has to reveal it to other people, and time most certainly does reveal it to others.

Hebrews 11:40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

3. Jesus showed us that even Pharisees recognized the genuine-ness of the prophets and the righteous from the past:

Matthew 23:29 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

4. The good report that is obtained through a faithful life is undeniable
5. It is a fact, according to God himself and what God does man cannot undo.

IV. So we should live order our life according to this truth that we now know.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

- A. Just believe God, stand there, do not back up or compromise, or vacillate.
- B. Believe God about truth, about righteousness, about salvation, and do not allow your mind and heart to be polluted by the unbelieving world around you.
- C. Take your wisdom for living from the Word of God and not from this depraved world you live in.
- D. Live for eternity and not for the present, based upon God's promises.
- E. Leave what people think of you in the hands of God and wait for that good report.