

Faith's Reward

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Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

- I. This verse is a summary of Noah's life and testimony can be summed up this way: he listened, he believed, he feared, he obeyed, he saved his family, he condemned the world, he became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

- II. Noah was such a person who was listening for God's voice in a world that was overrun with wickedness and ungodliness.
 - A. Only those who are listening hear what God has to say, and so much more in such a time as Noah's day.
 - B. There is a great difference in those who embrace religion and those who listen for the voice of God.
 - C. We are speaking of those who truly, with an honest heart, desire to know the will and the pleasure of God in the here and now for their own life and walk.
 - D. It is only those who sincerely ask, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" and then do what the Lord tells them to do.
 - E. You can be sure that Noah's world was a world full of carnal pleasure and busy activity, just like the day we are living in now.
 1. It took a strong desire and a disciplined mind to keep focused on God then, and it does now in this last generation, too.
 2. Noah denied himself and did not set his affection on things of the world.
 3. He was not living and planning and ordering his life after worldly pleasures and activities.
 4. He had the long look, he was not thinking about weeks and months and all the things he was going to do; he was focused on doing what God had told him to do.
 5. He counted time as a precious commodity and knew it was limited, so he did not waste it on vain things.
 - F. Only those who live like this, with this kind of view of things, will hear what God has to say in our day, also.
 - G. To live after pleasure and pride is to be blind and deaf to the truths of God, and to what is coming in the near future.
 - H. To carry on with life just like the rest of the world is evidence that a person does not believe God, does not hear God, and is not preparing to meet God.

Matthew 24:37-39 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

- I. This was the great difference in Noah that was effected by his faith – he was different, and he lived differently, and he ordered his life differently than all the rest of the ungodly world around him.

- III. When Noah heard what God had to say he believed.
- A. When he knew that it was God's word, it was what God said, and not what man had said, he believed God at the cost of being the only one who did.
 - B. He believed God at the cost of being ridiculed and ostracized by everyone else.
 - C. He believed God at the cost of standing, walking, and being alone the rest of his life.
 - D. He believed God at the same cost to his family.
 - E. Faith does not come without paying a great price.
 - F. To believe God is to identify with Him at the cost of being rejected by the world.

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

- G. If our faith has not separated us from the world and its affections it is not the same kind of faith that all the people mentioned in this chapter had.

John 15:18-19 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

- IV. Because Noah believed he was moved with fear.
- A. True faith will not leave a person in the same apathetic state of mind as the those that are blind and deaf around him.
 - B. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, (v. 1)
 - 1. Therefore, when we truly believe God his words become reality to us, not something that is like imagination or dreams or wishful thinking.
 - 2. God's words are a sure thing, not something that MIGHT come to pass.
 - C. This holy fear and anticipation for what God has said is going to happen will not permit us to continue an earthly life of pleasure and ease and vanity.
 - D. If we have believed we simply MUST be about our Father's business and our thirst and desire for things and pleasures of this world evaporate in it's sight.
- V. Noah's obedience condemned the world.
- A. Noah's fear of God condemned their worldly security and vain confidence.
 - 1. Without a doubt they ridiculed him and made light of all that he believed and did, but the eternal record is that he was right and they were very wrong.
 - B. His obedience condemned their rebellion and unbelief.
 - 1. They refused to believe there was even a reason to prepare for the flood.
 - 2. Therefore, they did nothing to prepare, but just kept on eating, drinking, and marrying – just living life for the pleasure it afforded here and now, until they had used up the last day of it.
 - C. Noah's faith condemned the world, that is, they knew in their hearts that his was the right way, but they simply loved the world and their selfishness more and refused to go his way.
 - 1. As they perished in the waters of the flood their conscience told them they were guilty and he was righteous.
- VI. Noah's faith was the saving of his family.
- A. It was good for them that they were part of Noah's household.
 - B. It was good for Noah's wife that she married Noah.

- C. It was good for his daughters-in-law that they married his sons.
- D. Faith has its rewards and its fruits and this is one of them, that it is the saving of our children and grandchildren, and in this case, the human race.
- E. Try to consider for just a moment what the end would have been for all these had it not been for Noah's faith in God.
- F. Ask yourself honestly what your faith is going to accomplish in the long run, even after you are long gone from this earth.

VII. Noah became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

- A. When the ark rested after the flood and the door finally opened and Noah walked down the plank into a world that had been emptied of all its ungodly inhabitants and washed clean of all their works, he was the new head of the human race.
- B. Righteousness, which is by faith, had prevailed, and Noah owned the entire world to prove it.
- C. Noah is an heir of the righteousness which is by faith in a way that no one else ever was.
 - 1. He continued living on the earth for another 350 years after the flood.
 - 2. The work of his faith was not finished yet.
- D. No one else has had that experience.
- E. The end of our faith is the salvation of our souls.

1 Peter 1:6-9 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

- F. The end of our faith will see us out of this earth and into the presence of God himself.
- G. So we will not have another chance, or another chapter, or another shot at it.
- H. So the just shall walk by faith here and now and their faith will accomplish these same things in them, their families, and their inheritance.