

Those Who Persevere: A Pilgrim Mentality

Michael Woody | Hebrews 11:13–16; Hebrews 11:24–26; Hebrews 11:35–40;
Hebrews 12:1–2

To persevere until the end we must believe that what is to come exceeds what is now

WHY THIS TEXT?

1. In our last message I discussed my approach for the remainder of Hebrews 11 as studying the themes of those who persevered. Hebrews 12:1-2 tells us that Hebrews 11 is significant because the individuals in this chapter persevered to the end. What are those themes?
 - a. They endured by the means of faith
 - b. They had an inheritance and this caused them to view life differently
 - c. They endured to the end and were approved by God.
2. Today we are going to study this inheritance that causes them to view life differently.
 - a. As I mentioned last time, every one of these people suffered losses: some loss of life, others their homeland, but all suffered loss.
 - b. The power to be joyfully sacrificial in this life is "knowing that you have a better possession beyond the grave."
3. Why is it that some view the work of God as the priority and the loss of worldly possessions or life to be a trivial thing? What would motivate a person to live by such standards?
4. This word for assurance, or confession, is our word to testify - in Hebrews 11:2 we see it clearly expressed as winning God's approval. In this verse God is the one who is testifying.
5. To persevere until the end we must believe that what is to come exceeds what is now.
 - a. Our Heavenly Inheritance is Superior to Earthly Possessions (Hebrews 11:13-16; Hab 3:16-18; 2 Cor. 5:8; Col. 3:1)

- b. Our Future Glory Is Superior To Earthly Suffering (Hebrews 11:24-26; 35-40; 12:1-2; Philippians 4:11)
- c. Our Being Like Christ Is Superior To Sin For A Season (1 Peter 2:11)

WHAT IS A PILGRIM MENTALITY?

The author of The Jewel of Christian Contentment, Jeremiah Burroughs said, Faith... empowers believers to rejoice in what we do not see; his exact words were “Faith makes the future good of spiritual and eternal things to be as present to the soul, and to work upon the soul, as if they were present.”

OUR HEAVENLY INHERITANCE IS SUPERIOR TO EARTHLY POSSESSIONS (HEBREWS 11:13-16; HAB 3:16-18; 2 COR. 5:8; COL. 3:1)

1. Christians must long to leave this world and be with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8).
2. William Perkins said that a “pilgrim” is “always thinking” of his homeland “and sighing after it.” Christians must desire heaven (Heb. 11:16), seek heaven (Col. 3:1), and use this world not as an end in itself but as a means to gain heaven.
3. The more holdings we have on earth, the more likely we are to forget that we’re citizens of another world, not this one, and that our inheritance lies there, not here.
 - a. The Levites had no earthly inheritance, because God himself was their inheritance (Deuteronomy 18:1-2).
 - b. We must be content that the absence of Earthly possessions is a better blessing (Habakkuk 3:17–18)
 - c. We must be content with the Lord being our portion as spoken in Psalm 73:26; 119:57; Psalm 142:5; Lam. 3:22-27
 - d. Christians have been told that we are “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God” (1 Peter 2:9). The priests had no earthly inheritance, and neither do we of the new covenant priesthood. We are both princes and priests.
4. Pilgrims are unattached. They are travelers, not settlers, who are acutely aware that excessive things will distract and burden them.

OUR FUTURE GLORY IS SUPERIOR TO EARTHLY SUFFERING (HEBREWS 11:24-26; 35-40; 12:1-2; PHILIPPIANS 4:11)

1. Paul writes of this in extensive fashion in Romans 8:18-25
4. Do we really believe that “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us”? What could cause us to believe this way? I suggest two perspectives shown in Romans 8:18-25.
 - a. All suffering is a result of sin and Christ is going to restore order - he says the sufferings of this present time. Paul is telling his readers that this isn't all that will be - Jesus is coming back!
 - b. The future will be marked with glory for believers because God has said that is what He will do. Ephesians 3:8 tells us Paul preached the unsearchable riches of Christ. God will remove all sin from us, and from His Creation, and that will be the basis of the glory coming.

OUR LOOKING LIKE CHRIST IS SUPERIOR SIN FOR A SEASON (1 PETER 2:9-11)

1. This is not found in Hebrews 11 but it is part of the Pilgrim mentality as captured by Peter.
2. What is it that Peter is telling his readers?
 - a. Peter urges believers to abstain from passions of the flesh.
 - b. He warns them to do this because these passions are warring against their souls, hoping to destroy them.
 - c. Peter just explained who we are as believers (our identity in v. 9), and then comes to how we ought to live.
 - i. Because of who you already are, be who you are.
 - ii. The text tells us who we are, and *then* gives us the command (so that we increasingly become who we already are).

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

What we believe will affect how we live; and if we live differently then we need to change what we believe. An example is the life of Prince Oscar.