Bloomington, IN March 29, 2019

Friday

Faces of Faith

Looking unto Jesus

The Author and Finisher of Our Faith

Introduction: Tonight will be our last lesson in a series I have titled Surrounded by so great a cloud of Witnesses.

Review Slides

* We have examined together the faith of 18 Bible characters + a few extra along the way.
* Real heroes that I hope we all will be blessed to meet in heaven.
* Their lives exemplify the attributes of faith and the evidence of things we all hope for.
* The stories of their lives are compelling and their steadfastness of faith inspiring.
* In some ways I feel like we are just getting started, i.e. Obadiah who hid the 100 prophets or the apostle Paul who was so rich in faith.

Hebrews 11:32-40

* Verse 38 - The world was not worthy of these people. They were the best.
* Verse 40 - Without us however, they were not made perfect.
* They were looking for the fruition of what they knew was coming.
* The coming of the Messiah – God’s anointed, the Savior of the world.
* You and I are the benefactors of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the salvation of sin.

Listen to what the Hebrew writer says we should do…

Read Hebrews 12:1-2

* Lay side every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us.
* Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us
* Look to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith

I. Slide Lay Aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us

 A. Truths about sin

 1. It must be laid aside – it is a weight that is dragging you down.

 a. The analogy is that of a runner who lightens his load of any and

all things that will hinder his race.

 Click 2. Sin is lawlessness - I John 3:4

 Click 3. Separates from God – Isaiah 59:1-2

 Click 4. Its payment is death – Romans 6:23

 Click 5. You cannot hide it from God – Job 34:21-22

 Click 6. Sin must be confessed – I John 1:9

II. Run with Endurance the Race that is Set Before Us.

 A. It is an endurance race

 1. Do not grow weary in well doing - Galatians 6:9

 Click 2. Run to receive the prize – I Corinthians 9:24-27

 a. It will take self-control

 b. Run with certainty and not with uncertainty.

1. Brethren run knowingwhere you are going.

c. Fight the good fight of faith.

 d. Discipline your body, bring it under your control lest you be

disqualified.

 3. There is only one real goal in life that matters, **Eternal life in heaven.**

 a. It is not easy to walk away from the sinful things that everyone else

doing, but you know this world is not your home and you are just passing

through.

 b. By faith, you must see what they cannot see.

 c. There is no time to waste for our lives are but a vapor. James 4:14

 1) Your life appears for a little while and then it vanishes away.

 2) To live out your life knowing you are living on an eternal

timeline and not a temporal one is so important.

 3) The world, those with a temporal mind focus all of their attention on

their vaporous life.

 4) What about a Christian? He or she sees past the here and

now. They think about things using their spiritual mind.

 5) How you live here on earth is going to determine where and

how live forever and ever.

 e. Brethren “…walk by faith and not by sight.” - II Corinthians 5:7

III. Looking unto Jesus

 Hebrews 12:1-2

 A. Slide The Author of our Faith – the chief captain who leads the way. He is the

 First fruits of those who have died because He came out of the grave.

 1. Jesus endured the cross, despising the shame, and is sitting at the right

hand of the throne of God.

 2. Acts 4:12 “there is no other name under heaven given among men by

which we must be saved.”

 3. Colossians 1:18 – God has given Him the preeminence.

 4. I Peter 2:21-25 – Our example and the Bishop of your souls.

 B. Slide The Finisher of our Faith

 1. I Corinthians 15:55-58

2. If you are not able to go to heaven, it will be your own fault.

 a. You will spend eternity in the devils hell.

 b. Don’t you quit, you keep marching in the armor of God. Keep running.

Keep sowing.

 c. You be a saint and not a sinner

 d. You be salt and salt that has lost its flavor

 e. You be servant just like Jesus was a servant

 f. You be a great steward in the household of God

 g. You be a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God.

3. Don’t you quit you stay on the little straight road that leads to heaven.

4. Is you name written in the book of life?

a. When the Roll is Called Up Yonder - #522

Conclusion:

* Romans 1:17 “The just shall live by faith”
* II Corinthians 4:18 – “…the things which are not seen are eternal”
* I John 5:4 “…And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith.”

Invitation: Do you believe in God? Then why not before it is too late obey the gospel of Jesus Christ tonight?

Turn from you sins and come to Jesus – Acts 2:38

Come to Jesus and confess His name before those who are present tonight. – Mt 10:32-33

Come and put Jesus when you wash away your sins in grave of water, baptism. Mark 16:16

Be faithful unto your death and God will give you a crown of life.