

Sermon Notes – July 18, 2021

Review

- The writer has produced a masterpiece! Christ is displayed in all His glory as our greater Prophet, perfect High Priest, and true King. Why would anyone turn away from Him?
- Last week we saw the basics of biblical faith: the object is God Himself, our Creator & Sustainer. Biblical faith “sees” the unseen and fully trusts God to keep His word.

Today’s text: READ Hebrews 11:8-16

Building on last week’s introduction to biblical faith, this week’s text highlights the faith of Abraham, Sarah, and the rest of the patriarchs who also “saw things not seen.” They knew this world was not their true home. They were looking for a glorious city built by God Who had placed in their souls a longing for “a better country, that is, a heavenly one.” This text is about seeing, seeking, and desiring!

Pilgrims See The Unseen & Trust God To Keep His Word

(8-13)

- ⇒ Abraham & Sarah left Ur of the Chaldeans – a modern city for its time, located on the Euphrates River in what is today southern Iraq. Ur boasted an elaborate system of writing, sophisticated mathematical calculations, educational facilities, and extensive business & religious structures. Following God’s call, they left the _____ for the _____. (Genesis 12 & 15)
- ⇒ They believed God’s seemingly impossible promise of an heir (Genesis 15) – ultimately the Greater Heir, Messiah Jesus.
- ⇒ What were they thinking? Simply put, they had an eye beyond their _____. They believed that God keeps His promises.

Pilgrims Know They Are On a Journey (13)

- ⇒ They knew they were “strangers and exiles” – pilgrims!
- ⇒ Psalm 39:5; 90:10; Acts 13:36; II Cor. 5:1; Phil 3:20; James 4:14

Pilgrims Know Their Ultimate Destination (14-16)

- ⇒ These pilgrims knew that their journey would one day _____.

- ⇒ They were “seeking a homeland” – a true Promised Land. If it was a life of _____ they wanted, they could have had it. Just stay in Ur! They traded comfort and security for a life in _____. (15)
- ⇒ Though they knew less about heaven than we do today, in a sense, their hearts were _____! They longed for what only heaven can provide, and at times, in a sense, so do we. According to C.S. Lewis, the longing for what only heaven can provide is at the heart of many of our deepest desires, though we often mislabel them.

Pilgrims Will Not Always Be Pilgrims (16)

- ⇒ Like the pilgrims of old, we too will one day complete our pilgrimage. The race does not last forever. There is a _____. Our text says that “God has prepared a city for them” – like John 14:1-2. There is a reward for a race well-run.
- ⇒ Notice the word “desire” (16). The subject of the verb is “People who speak thus.” The writer points out that what we desire *profoundly* affects our lives. *To be human is to desire*. Again, to quote C.S. Lewis, our desires are often too weak, not too strong; that is, we desire small and piddly things rather than eternal and lasting things (“The Weight of Glory”; also, Edwards, “The Religious Affections” – not simply emotions, but deep longings).
- ⇒ What an intriguing statement in v. 16 – “God is not ashamed to be called their God.” What an amazing word of encouragement to a suffering church and discouraged early believers who needed reasons to endure!

Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ Who were these people of whom it is said that God is not ashamed to be called their God? They were sinners just like you and me. They were pilgrims on a journey who needed to trust God with hard things and struggled to do so. They longed for a true home and believed they would one day see it. Do you live with a pilgrim mindset?
- ⇒ Do you pray about and struggle with your desires? You should. To desire eternal and truly great things is often more difficult than desiring temporary and small things. What things do you long for? Do you know? Would you ask God today to place HIS desires within you?

Worship Next Sunday: July 25, 2021

“How Faith Reveals The Fear Of God”

(Hebrews 11:17-29) Global Partner Tim Glessner