



MZBMP

Sunday Morning Service Study Notes
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TITLE:

The Promise and the Concluding Exhortation

TEXT:

Hebrews 11:39 - 12:2

THE PROMISE

- The Old Testament believers in Hebrews 11 obtained a good report through faith.
 - These men had also failures in their lives, but God gives a good testimony of their faith.
- The Old Testament believers received not the promise. God having provided some better thing for us (New Testament believers).
 - What is this promise?
 - Heb. 10:34-37
 - We have in heaven a better and enduring substance (v.34).
 - Cast not away your confidence because this has a great recompense of reward (or great payment of wages due). This is called "promise" in v.36 (v.35).
 - Ye have need of patience that ye might receive the promise (v.36).
 - This promise is associated with the second coming of Jesus Christ (v.37).
 - Heb. 11:10, 13-16
 - Abraham looked for a different city than Canaan (v.10).
 - Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob died in faith not having received the promises but having seen them afar off (v.13).
 - The promise of a better country - heavenly city (v.14-16).
 - Heb. 12
 - Encouragement and exhortation amid trials (v.1-17).
 - The Old Testament is signified by Mt. Sinai (v.18-21).
 - We in our time are not under the old covenant but the new. It makes us a citizen of heaven while we are still on earth (v.22-29).
 - We are come unto Mt. Sion. Compare Eph. 2:6, Phi. 3:20, Col. 3:1-4. None of this came through the law of Moses.
 - Heb. 8:6
 - Jesus Christ is the mediator of a better covenant which was established upon better promises (v.6).
- That they without us should not be made perfect.
 - They are waiting on God to fulfill His will in the church. Only then will Christ come, the resurrection happens and Christ's kingdom is established.
 - His will today through the church is the Great Commission.
 - Compare 2 Pet. 3:9. Luke 24:47.

CONCLUDING EXHORTATION

- "Wherefore" - What to do now?
 - Heb. 12 and 13 contain the concluding exhortation.
 - Paul taught the doctrines about the exaltation of Jesus Christ, the priesthood, the Tabernacle, and the covenants. Now, he is in practical exhortation.
 - Sound doctrine and interpretation follow proper application.
 - There are around 15 exhortations that Paul listed in these 2 chapters.

- Let us Run (12:1-4).
 - The race is set before us.
 - The race (ἀγῶνα - agōna refers to the assembly of the Greeks at their national games).
 - The Christian life is like a race.
 - Let us run the race. “Run” means to exert oneself, strive hard; to spend one's strength in performing or attaining something.
 - The race has witnesses.
 - “Wherefore seeing” means “Wherefore since”.
 - We are surrounded by so great number of believers who obtained a good report.
 - There is an allusion here, doubtless, to the ancient games. A great multitude of spectators usually occupied the circular seats in the amphitheater.
 - This refers back to Hebrews 11, to Abel, Enoch, Noah and etc.
 - They finished their own races with faith.
 - The race requires laying aside (putting off, putting away) every weight (or burden) and every sin.
 - Weight is not the same thing as sin. It is anything that impedes the runner is a weight that should be laid aside. It can be a job, a form of entertainment, a hobby, social media etc.
 - The weight and sin that so easily beset us.
 - The race requires patience.
 - Patience or endurance is strongly emphasized in the Epistle.
 - The race requires looking unto Jesus.
 - Looking (ἀφορῶντες - apherōntes) means to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on something.
 - Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our faith.
 - The author (or captain) of our faith. Compare Heb 2:10.
 - The finisher (or perfecter) of our faith. The one who has in his own person raised faith to its perfection and so set before us the highest example of faith.