

Hebrews 11:1-3: Faith.

I. (1) A definition of faith.

Faith - confidence or trust in a particular system/person based on some perceived degree of authority.

This is built up from Hebrews 10:37-38, a quotation from Habakkuk 2:3-4.

Christians are declared “justified”, which is, cleared of any wrong before God, by faith, not the ritual and sacrificial Law.

Romans 3:20 - *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Ephesians 2:8 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should bo*

- Romans 1:17 is the commentary on the justified man - "The just shall live by faith"
- Hebrews 10:38 is the commentary on faith - "The just shall live by faith"
- Galatians 3:11 is the commentary on the Christian life - "The just shall live by faith"

Romans 3:28 - *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.*

Galatians 2:20 - *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

Substance – the foundation on which we stand to wait upon the promises of God.

Evidence – proof of the invisible.

“Just as our physical eyesight is the sense that gives us evidence of the material world, faith is the “sense” that gives us evidence of the invisible, spiritual world.”

Faith is the ability to see, relate with, communicate with and experience the invisible God in visible ways.

II. (2) By faith many in history left a great testimony.

Testimony – witness, martyr.

“These Jewish Christians were discouraged and thought of giving up...they needed a good testimony, and so they needed these examples of faith to break them out of discouragement.”

What testimony would you want to leave behind?

III. (3) By faith we understand the Creator & Creation.

In the beginning the invisible God spoke everything into existence. “*Let there be...*”

Psalm 19:1 - *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.*

Psalm 33:6 - *By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth...*

Romans 1:20 - *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*