

January 3, 2021

Reviving our Faith

"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven...We must pay careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so the we do not drift away...therefore...let us hold firmly to the faith we profess." Hebrews 1:1-4:4



The letter to the Hebrews was written not long before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman military in 70 A.D. For Jewish believers, both those who no longer lived in Palestine, and for those who still lived in their homeland, times were terrifying. Everything they knew and trusted was being threatened and their faith was being challenged in major ways. The author of this letter writes to remind them that despite the dark times they were experiencing, they still needed to put their trust in Jesus and in his salvation. This letter is a call to those first century believers to revive their faith in the saving power of the Son of God.

The author begins by reminding them and us that the message of salvation that we have received and accepted did not come through prophets, but through the Son. Jesus, the one and only Son of God is, the exact representation of God. So, in Jesus we can see who God is and we can hear his words to us. The promises that Jesus makes are made by God the Father and he is the source of our salvation. Throughout this letter the author is going to demonstrate why Jesus and the salvation he offers us is always and only our best choice. We must put our faith in Jesus and even as we are tried by tough times, we need to keep our faith in him.

The call at the end of chapter four is no less important today than it was in those dark days. *"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess"* and his challenge in chapter three, verses 12-14 is still, *"See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily...We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first."*

As the Jewish believers of the first century saw so much of what they had always known and trusted in threatened with destruction their faith was understandably shaken. The author of this letter calls them to *"...hold firmly..."* and you and I are still being called to *"...hold firmly..."* to the foundation of our faith.

Over the past several months, Gloria and I, like all of you have struggled to see the road forward. We have wondered, and sadly, sometimes worried about what our future might look like. Not much has changed, but one thing we can know for certain is that God has not and will not change. Jesus is still Lord and our salvation is still founded in him. Our challenge day by day is still to *"...hold firmly..."* to our faith.

So, as we begin this new year, I would challenge all of us to renew our faith in Jesus and in the salvation that we have in him. I believe that among all of the resolutions that we might make

here at the beginning of a new year, the only one that really matters is, "*...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*"



...but
as for me &
MY HOUSE,
We will serve
THE LORD.



Joshua 24:15