

Sermon Quotes
September 10th, 2006
Study of Hebrews- Faith Hall Of Fame Pt.8

Two Important Truths of this Chapter:

1. The Christian walk is primarily a walk by faith—**Faith is central**.
2. Those who desire to walk by faith and please God will suffer trials and persecution in this life—**Trouble is normal**.

“I think we have lost the old knowledge that happiness is overrated, that in a way life is overrated. We have lost somehow a sense of mystery about us, our purpose, our meaning, our role. Our ancestors believed in two worlds and understood this to be the solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short one. We are the first generation of man that actually expected to find happiness here on earth. And our search for it has left us so unhappy...The reason for this unhappiness? If you do not believe in a higher world, if you only believe in the flat, material world around you, if you believe this is your only chance at happiness, then you are not disappointed when this world does not give a good measure of its riches—you are despairing!”

—Peggy Noonan
(conservative writer)

“I have found that instead of asking 'Why me?' I am better off asking, 'Why not me?' After all, what have I done to earn God's favor? Apart from Jesus, I deserve only judgment—not a maintenance-free car or a cancer-less body. 'Why me?' too often flows from an American expectation of a high quality of life. Where does the Bible guarantee me freedom from trouble in this life? Who am I to expect a better quality of life than those heroic guys who were stoned and sawn in two (Heb. 11:37)? Why expect anything different than Paul, whose back was no doubt covered with scars from 175 lashes (*over 5 different times*, 2 Cor 11:24)?”

—Mark Mullory

“And if in doing good you meet with difficulties, let not that stagger you. It is but right and natural...If your lot be hard, thank God for it. If your sufferings be great, bless the Lord for them, and if the difficulties in your pathway be many, surmount them by faith, but let them not cast you down. Be of good courage, and wait on the Lord, setting this constantly in your minds that he has not promised to keep you from trouble, but to preserve you in it. It is not written, 'I will save you from the fire,' but 'I will save you in the fire,' not 'I will quench the coals,' but 'they shall not burn you,' not 'I will put out the furnace,' but 'the flames shall not kindle upon thee.' Write it down and expect it to come true, that in this world you shall have tribulation. Only follow thy glorious leader, be it through flood or flame.”

—Charles Spurgeon

Romans 5:3-4 “More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, **knowing that** suffering produces endurance, (4) and endurance produces character, and character produces hope...”

James 1:2-4 “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, (3) **for you know** that the **testing of your faith** produces steadfastness. (4) And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

“The gold must be put into the furnace. It is so mixed with dross, that the workman's eye can scarcely discover it. But for the furnace, the dross would cling inseparably. The refiner's process burns it out, until pure metal is left behind...Till it has undergone the fire, it is unfit for use. And must there **not be a furnace for the child of God?** But by this process the hidden evil is brought out for humiliation; the hidden good for honor... Painful indeed is the purifying process...When the action of fire upon the metal has brought it into its best state for use, we see the results: the displacing of all worldly idols, the melting away of our stubborn will, and a heart wholly devoted to God...The refiner's process may be slow, but its results are sure. Nothing but dross will perish.”

—Charles Bridges
(famous Puritan preacher)

“Though I cannot know what your afflictions are, yet I know what your mercies are, and I know they are so great that I am sure there can be no afflictions in this world as great as the mercies you have. If it were **only this mercy**, that you have this day of grace and salvation continued to you: it is a greater mercy than any affliction. Set any affliction **beside this mercy** and see which would weigh heaviest; this is certainly greater than any affliction. That you have the day of grace and salvation, that you are not now in hell, this is a greater mercy. That you have the sound of the Gospel still in your ears, that you have the use of your reason: this is a greater mercy than you're afflictions.”

—Jeremiah Burroughs