

Sovereign Grace Church
“Faith and the Promise” outline
June 4, 2017

Hebrews 11: 13-16

As we continue our study of Hebrews we remember that the writer is challenging his people, who are Hebrew Christians, to stay the course with Jesus and resist the temptation to return to the shadows of the Old Covenant. They were beginning to experience real hardship and suffering as a result of their commitment to follow Christ. The writer reminds them that our Old Covenant brethren also faced similar temptations and yet stayed the course.....even when what was promised them failed to be immediately realized.

As New Covenant believers we live in a much more favored time than did Abraham and our fathers. We are in a real sense a part of the blessing that they were attempting to visualize. Yet they stayed the course in anticipating the Promise. If such was the case for them, surely, given the greater light & spiritual realization which we possess on the far side of the Cross, we should be able to emulate their faith in following our Savior and Lord even through times of real testing

1. The Promise v. 13

- **The Earthly Promise Gen. 12:2; 15:5; 17:5-7; Isa 60: 17-22**

- **The Heavenly Promise Heb. 11: 10; Jn. 12: 32**

- **The Promise and Jesus' Kingdom Matt 5:20; 18:3; Jn 3:3; Lk 17:20-21; II Cor. 4:17-18; Phil 3:20-21; Col 1:13; Jn 17:3**

2. Temptation to Abandon and Return v. 15
Num. 11:4-5; I Cor 15:32; Jn 6:68

3. Faith seeks the Heavenly City v.14, 16
I Pet. 1:4; Col. 3: 1-3; Jn 7:38; 17: 20-21

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. Did Abraham have a personal relationship with God? How was it manifested? How was it tested? How does the same thing work out in your life?**
- 2. How are the Earthly Promise and the Heavenly Promise connected? Does the one cancel the other or is the relationship deeper than that? How can our earthly lives be subsumed under our fellowship with Christ? What does it mean to follow Jesus in our present lives?**
- 3. Given that our experience of Christ and His Kingdom is but a foretaste of that which is to come, how different will the reality be? Does your worship experience bring you into the presence of God? Is it possible to worship God without being in His presence? If He is not present in our worship, then what are we doing? How can it be corrected?**
- 4. How should our lives as individual Christians and as a Body reflect the joy of knowing Jesus? Are others attracted to our fellowship or put off by it? If they are put off by it, is this just because they are unbelievers? What is a valid sense in which an unbeliever may be repulsed by our worship? What is an invalid sense? How does John 17: 20-21 relate to this question?**
- 5. Is it possible to be doctrinally correct and manifest a false image of the Christ we say we worship and serve? How can this be? How can it be corrected? How does John 5: 39 relate to this?**