

**Sovereign Grace Church**  
**“Persevering Faith” outline**  
July 30, 2017

**Hebrews 11: 30-40**

*This morning we will finish Hebrews' great chapter on the mighty examples of faith exhibited by those brethren of the Old Covenant who had been given the Promise of a Coming Deliverance but were not allowed to see it in their life-times. Their faith was manifested in both deliverances and also in being allowed to undergo persecution at the hands of the wicked.*

*The author of Hebrews is interested in these mighty examples as providing incentive to his own New Covenant believers as they themselves faced the persecution of those who thought they were crazy and unfit to live. Followers of Jesus are not the kind of people who's supreme loyalty will reside in any earthy institution or people. They cannot be trusted to maintain the status quo. They are usually regarded as useful in their commitment and labor for good.....until the definition of good begins to be twisted to evil. Then they become impediments to social and moral progress! Jesus said that such should be expected from those who do not have the “eyes of faith”. They do not see the unseen Reality that under-girds our being and gives meaning and purpose for living on this earth. They effectively suppress this knowledge because it impedes their desires to control their own destinies.*

*Such is the world in which we currently live. It is a time where evil is being called good and good evil. Where faith in the unseen is regarded as a psychological pathology rather than a gift of genuine sight. It is a time for boldness and risk....and a time to prepare for possible persecution for the cause of Christ.*

**1. Remaining Examples of Faithful People vv. 30-32**

- Jericho v. 30
  
- Rahab v. 31 Josh. 2: 9-11
  
- Others v. 32 Judges 16: 20; Judges 11

**2. Different Forms of Faith vv. 33-38**

- Faith issuing in Success vv. 33-35a  
II Sam. 8: 15

- **Faith issuing in Suffering vv. 35b-38**  
**II Macc. 6: 18-19, 28; II Kgs 2: 23; II Chron. 24: 21-22; Jn 15: 20**

3. **Conclusion of the Matter vv. 39-40**  
**II Pet. 3: 9**

4. **Applications: I John 1: 9; Jn. 13: 38; Jn 6: 66-69**

### **Questions for Conversation and Reflection**

1. **Have you ever faced some form of persecution for your faith in Jesus? What are forms of persecution we face in our day? Were their times when you responded to this persecution in faith and others when you did not? As you reflect back....what were your motivations?**
2. **Do you struggle with your potential response to serious (life & death) persecutions like they experienced in Hebrews 11? What are some examples of persecutions you would find currently unbearable? Are believers forced to face them in our own strength? What difference would this make? Do you believe that those who have denied Christ from a fear of persecution could be forgiven? What are some examples from Scripture or church history?**
3. **Have you ever read Foxe's Book of Martyrs? The Puritans used to read this book to their children to bolster their faith. Many today think such reading would traumatize their children! How can reading such literature be done in a way that does NOT traumatize but encourage?**
4. **What is the current direction of our own society today? Do you believe the times are getting closer to persecution? How should we respond to our current social evils in a way that conveys both love for the perpetrators as well as resistance to wickedness? How is such a response possible? Is there ever a time to physically resist wickedness? Can you think of occasions when this occurred? Why is it impossible to advance Christ's Kingdom by force of arms or even by winning debates? How does Jesus' example help us?**