

Why We Believe

Hebrews 10:32-34

Here, we find a description of the early church, when believers encountered enormous hardships.

The hardest part to grasp is: “*you accepted it with joy*”

The key is found in verse 34:

“You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever.”

Something better.

Something that would last forever.

“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” - Jim Elliott

Why do we keep believing?

Hebrews 11:13-16 offers three answers to that question.

I. WE LIVE BY A DIFFERENT STANDARD

Hebrews 11:13

All these heroes of faith died without ever fully receiving what God had promised them.

a. Christians are aliens and strangers on earth.

That’s the whole point of verse 13.

b. **“This World Is Not My Home”**

II. WE DIE WITH A DIFFERENT HOPE

Hebrews 11:14-16a

a. Dying well is something of a lost art today.

We have “grief recovery” classes that help those who have lost loved ones.

But when was the last time you attended a class on how to die well?

b. Dying well requires:

1. Living with a conscious, abiding faith in Jesus Christ to the very end of life.

In earlier generations people believed in two worlds.

They knew that the next world was the “real” world, the one that would last forever.

They understood that this world could not, cannot, and does not provide ultimate happiness.

2. Moving forward, when it would be easier to give up and go back.

“If you want a way out, you’ll always find one. Quitters always have an excuse.”

– Charles Spurgeon

c. We live by a different standard and we die with a different hope.

For those who know Jesus, death is going home, to our real home, our eternal home.

III. WE LOOK FOR A DIFFERENT REWARD.

Hebrews 11:16 ***“God is not ashamed to be called their God.”***

If we look in the mirror long enough, we are bound to feel bad about ourselves.

Romans 3:23 *applies to Christians too.*

So how is it that God is not ashamed of us?

Romans 5:8

Christ died for us while we were “still” sinners.

Friends, we *were and “still “are sinners.* We are sinners saved by grace. “

That’s the true gospel of Christ.

That’s what being saved really means.

That’s our entire hope of heaven.

Romans 10:12, 13

He is not ashamed to be the God of those who trust in him.

God is not ashamed to be our God today, tomorrow and forever. Amen.