

# An Optimistic Obituary

## Hebrews 11:8-10...13-16

**13:** were still living by faith when they died;  
promise was verbally fulfilled (39)

**14:** seeking a country (homeland) 16.  
2 Pt.3:13

**15:** not Ur of Chaldea. Lk.9:62

**16:** heavenly home

# I. They Died in Faith, 13

Believed God would fulfill His promise

Hb.13:7, [successful] outcome of way of life

Bible emphasizes 'finish' –

Creation, Gn.2:1

Tower, Lk.14:28-30

Lord's work, Jn.4:34

Race, Ac.20:24

Many forget to finish what they start

# A sad sight

Christian lives in faith all his life...loses it at the end.

What can happen our faith?

1. Do not grow in faith, Mt.6:30; Lk.7:9; Ro.4:19; 1 Co.15:14
2. Shipwreck faith, 1 Tim.1:19-20
3. Depart from faith, 1 Tim.4:1
4. Err concerning the faith, 1 Tim.6:19-21

# How to develop faith like Abraham's?

- Renew source of faith every day, Hb.11:1

“It's not what men eat, but what they digest that makes them strong; not what we gain, but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read, but what we remember that makes us learned; not what we preach or pray, but what we practice and believe that makes us Christians” – Francis Bacon

# How to develop faith like Abraham's?

- Renew source of faith every day, Hb.11:1
- Reject enemies of faith, Hb.11:8, 9, 10-11.

“You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death. It is easy to say you believe a rope to be strong as long as you are merely using it to cord a box. But suppose you had to hang by that rope over a precipice. Wouldn't you then first discover how much you really trusted it?” – C.S.Lewis

# How to develop faith like Abraham's?

- Renew source of faith every day, Hb.11:1
- Reject enemies of faith, Hb.11:8, 9, 10-11.
- Realize important of faith, Hb.11 = Ja.2

Hebrews 11:...28-30  
Started well  
Later, let guard down

James 2  
Faith is obedience  
Final warning: 26



I. They Died in Faith

II. They Died Without Receiving  
the Promises, 13

# John 8:56

- Died before seeing numerous seed, rest in Canaan, or Savior

Moment of  
decision

Time in  
between

Time of  
fulfillment

- Hb.9:28, eagerly wait for Him
- Hb.11:10, waited for the city...
  - Hb.11:13, Strangers . . . Pilgrims

# What does it mean to live as strangers and pilgrims?

- **Admit:** everything we enjoy on earth is temporary. Gn.47:9
- **Avoid:** anything that would jeopardize going to heaven. Hb.11:23-26
- **Attitude:** emphasizes spiritual over temporal

# What is our priority?

- Future: Hb.11:14. Mt.6:19-21.
- Past: Hb.11:15. Remembrance with an attitude. [Num.11:5] . . . [Gn.24:5-8]
- Present: Hb.11:16
  - Reach out for, aspire to something
  - Esau, 12:16-17

I. They Died in Faith

II. They Died W/o Rec. Promises

III. They Died Seeking  
Something Better, 16

# Spiritual blessings – heavenly inheritance

- God is their portion
- Far superior to any material blessing
  - “Better” – v.35
    - Not mere resurrection to earthly life...
    - 2 Macc.7:9
- *Beyond This Land of Parting...*

Land of sin,  
suffering, sorrow

Land of salvation,  
solace, sanctification

I. They Died in Faith

II. They Died W/o Rec. Promises

III. They Died Seeking Better

IV. They Died Believing That God  
Would Conquer Death, 16b

## They were dying, yet expected to enter a City

- Though they had no benefit of godly examples, NT, Lord's resurrection, etc., they believed God would conquer death
  - Abraham, 17-19
  - Isaac, 20
  - Jacob, 21
  - Joseph, 22
- Hb.9:27, appointment



# Lesson

- Abraham's hopes would not be satisfied until he went to the 'heavenly city' (= v.16)

**“Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither” – Lewis**