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Sermon Notes

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Saving Faith Displayed Before the Flood, Part 2

Hebrews 11:4-7

What does it mean to WALK WITH GOD??? Perhaps we can start with simply what does it mean to walk with someone at all...

Thomas Goodwin: He describes a man and his little child, his son walking down the road and they are walking hand in hand. And the child knows he is the child of his father, and he knows that the father loves him, and he rejoices in that, and he is happy in it. There is no uncertainty about it at all. BUT SUDDENLY the father, moved by some impulse, takes hold of that child and picks him up, fondles him in his arms, kisses him, embraces him, showers his love upon him and then he puts him down again, and they go on walking together

In our text today, we're going to look at two men who by faith walked with God, Enoch and Noah:

Enoch:

Genesis 5:22-24 And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

Noah:

Genesis 6:9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.

This is an amazing statement... for it pictures the Almighty God of the universe, the invisible God, the God who is spirit, the God who is wind, the God who is a consuming fire, the God who has no body, parts or passions... this SPIRITUAL GOD "walking" with a human being:

The first time the expression of God walking is used in the Scriptures, it is in the context of JUDGMENT:

Genesis 3:8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Sadly, if you read between the lines, we see what Adam and Eve lost; they recognized the sound of God WALKING IN THE GARDEN... that's how they knew He was coming; that sound was familiar to them. The clear implication is that, before that dreadful day of sin and death entering the world, Adam and Eve ALSO walked with God, for they knew His sounds. But after they ate from the tree, they heard this sound again... and this time it was not pleasing to them.

But after this time, God began receding in man's mind, receding in his estimation... God no longer spoke directly and audibly to the human ear as He did in those first days. Cain heard God speaking to him, and had a sad conversation with him.

But little by little, because of the hardening of man's hearts and God's judicial HIDING from sinful man, God placed Himself beyond the pale of normal sensory input... beyond the realm of SIGHT and SOUND and SMELL and TASTE and TOUCH... and He was found only by those who would call on Him by faith:

Genesis 4:26 Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the LORD.

Genesis 5 introduces us for the first time to the concept of "walking with God" in the pattern of Enoch... and Hebrews 11 tells us that it was BY FAITH that Enoch walked with God, BY FAITH he lived a life well-pleasing to God, BY FAITH he was taken from this world, and BY FAITH he was commended as someone who pleased God.

And Hebrews 11 tells us also the root of Noah's life was faith as well... Genesis 6:9 tells us Noah walked with God and lived a godly, moral, upright life in a wicked generation; Hebrews 11 tells us it was only BY FAITH that he did so

Last week:

Basic concept: the righteous sons and daughters of the living God, in EVERY GENERATION of human history, in every geographical location, in EVERY CULTURE or TRIBE or LANGUAGE there ever has been... in EVERY CASE have been pleasing to God one way and one way only: by faith in Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

We saw these key issues:

A life worth living is one that totally focuses on GOD BY FAITH

I want to please you, God

I want to come to you, God

I believe that you exist, God

I believe that you give rewards, God

I earnestly seek you, God

This is how Enoch lived... this is how Noah lived... this is how Abraham lived...
WALKING WITH GOD... this is not some SUPER LIFE the gets EXTRA CREDIT;
this is the only kind of life that leads to heaven

Hebrews 10:38-39 But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." 39 ¶ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

Faith is the Assurance of Things Hoped for, the Conviction of Things Not Seen (vs. 1)

ESV Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Faith Resulted in the Commendation of the Ancient Saints (vs. 2)

ESV Hebrews 11:2 For by it the people of old received their commendation.

Faith Understands God's Creation of the Universe (vs. 3)

ESV Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

I. Basic Principle of Relationship with God (vs. 6)

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

A. Basic Goal: Pleasing God

B. Second Statement of Basic Goal: Coming to God

C. Third Statement of Basic Goal: Being Rewarded by God

D. Summation: "What is required for me to be pleasing to God, to come to God, to be rewarded by Him?"

E. Double Negative Assertion

1. Without faith... this is IMPOSSIBLE

F. Making it Positive: Faith is REQUIRED in order to please God... in order to come to God... in order to be rewarded by God

G. Applying this to Abel, Enoch, and Noah

1. None of the accounts from Genesis mentioned their faith
2. Logic works out simply here:
 - a. Fact 1: “Without faith it is impossible to please God”
 - b. Fact 2: “Abel’s offering pleased God”
 - c. Therefore: “Abel’s offering was made by faith”
3. Again:
 - a. Fact 1: “Without faith it is impossible to please God”
 - b. Fact 2: “Enoch was commended as someone who pleased God”
 - c. Therefore: “Enoch lived by faith”

H. HOW Do We Know This Is True?

I. The Hiddenness of God and the Goodness of God

J. What is the REWARD?

II. Abel: Faith’s Worship (vs. 4)

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

III. Enoch: Faith’s Walk (vs. 5)

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

A. The Biblical Record of Enoch

1. Three Key passages
2. In addition to Hebrews, also Genesis and Jude

Genesis 5:21-24 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah.²² And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

Jude 1:14-15 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

B. What the Author Tells Us About Faith

"By faith Enoch was taken from this life so that he did not experience death"

1. Clearly Enoch's translation to heaven was a direct and supernatural act of Almighty God
2. Enoch was passive at that moment... it was something God did as a reward for a life of diligently and passionately living for God's glory
3. BUT the root of their relationship was Enoch's FAITH in the invisible God which resulted in a powerful pattern of daily living constantly in the presence of God which the author ascribes to Enoch's faith

C. "Enoch Walked with God"

1. We've seen it twice in Genesis 5... it is stated twice about Enoch

Genesis 5:22-24 And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³ Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

2. Walk = daily life

- a. Common expression in human experience... "to walk" = "to live"

Indian expression = "walk a mile in another man's moccasins" ... imagine living in his circumstances

- b. One of the key marks of development for a baby is taking his or her "first steps"
- c. We use this expression for all types of processes in life: "the first step is _____" or "steps to a happier life" or "step by step instructions"
- d. Frequently in scripture this expression is used for a believer's daily life in the sight of God

Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.

Genesis 24:40 *"[Abraham] replied, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and make your journey a success, so that you can get a wife for my son from my own clan and from my father's family.*

Genesis 48:15-16 *Then [Jacob] blessed Joseph and said, "May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, ¹⁶ the Angel who has delivered me from all harm--may he bless these boys.*

3. The commandments of God define the WALK

Deuteronomy 5:33 *Walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 *These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

Deuteronomy 8:6 *Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and revering him.*

4. Christians are commanded to WALK in the ways of God in true HOLINESS and RIGHTEOUSNESS

1 John 1:6-7 *If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

Colossians 3:5-8 *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.*

5. Hebrews 11 tells us this is the WALK of faith:

By faith, Enoch was commended as someone who pleased God...

This is the same life that Paul commands all believers to live in the pattern of Abraham, who also walked with God:

Romans 4:12 *And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.*

2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

6. The Goal: Constant fellowship with Almighty God

Leviticus 26:12 I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.

Revelation 3:4 Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.

7. The Ultimate Promise of Heaven

Revelation 21:22-24 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

8. Enoch WALKED WITH GOD:

- a. As a patriarchal leader... listed in the genealogy of Genesis 5
- b. As a father of sons and daughters
- c. For 300 years or more!!
- d. As a man surrounded by a wicked generation... the generation that led to the flood

Jude 1:14-15 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

- e. Enoch... seventh from Adam... actually prophesied about the SECOND COMING of Jesus Christ before there was even a first coming!!!
- f. A man with a busy life who, moment by moment, day after day lived in the presence of the invisible God... who tended his flocks if he had them or did his business if he had any or who cared for his body or loved his wife or raised his children or did his traveling always ever in the presence of the unseen holy God

D. Enoch's Commendation

"Before he was taken out of this world, he was commended as one who pleased God"

- 1. How did this commendation come? Perhaps God spoke to Enoch words of praise and encouragement

2. Perhaps like God's statement to Satan concerning Job

Job 1:8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

3. God was similarly DELIGHTED with Enoch's daily, moment by moment

4. Perhaps it was more directly to Enoch... that God spoke to him as He did to His Son and as He does to us

a. To His Son

Luke 3:22 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

b. To us

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

c. Perhaps the Lord, just as Enoch sought to walk with God every day and to please Him every day, the Lord testified to Him: "I am pleased with you!"

E. Faith's Extraordinary Reward: Translated Directly to Heaven

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

1. God gave to Enoch an astonishing reward... LINKED TO HIS FAITH-FILLED WALK... a privilege not granted to anyone else in history except Elijah, who ascended to heaven in a chariot of fire
2. Genesis 5 is a dreary chapter, with a repeated drumbeat of "and then he died", "and then he died", "and then he died"
3. But Enoch stands as a stark exception... and the author to Hebrews confirms the statement: HE DID NOT EXPERIENCE DEATH
4. The Greek word KJV uses is "translated"... literally moved from one place to the next
5. This was an incredible gift of grace... for Enoch was a sinner and a descendent of Adam...

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

a. Enoch was spared the just penalty for his sins

- b. God the Father looked at Enoch's faith and ahead to Christ's death for Enoch
- c. God specially spared Enoch the death penalty as a picture of the grace that comes to ALL of Christ's followers... to be ultimately spared from death and to live forever with God in heaven
- d. He is also a picture of that mysterious final generation:

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

- 6. On the specifics of what happened to Enoch: Speculation does not help us much
 - a. I do not believe Enoch received a resurrection body at that moment... for Christ was the FIRST FRUIT from the dead
 - b. I do not believe Enoch continued to live in his physical body in the heavenly Zion, for FLESH AND BLOOD CANNOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD and Hebrews 12 says we have come to the SPIRITS of righteous men made perfect
 - c. In some mysterious way Enoch was separated from his flesh and blood body without experiencing death as we do
 - d. Beyond that we cannot say more
- F. Summary: Enoch's Walk with God was by Faith... He Pleas'd God by Faith; God Rewarded Him by Faith
 - 1. Enoch walked with God his whole life
 - 2. His bodily translation into the heavenly realms was just the next phase of his already-established relationship with God

William Preston: "Blessed be God! Though I shall change my place, I shall not change my company!"

IV. Noah: Faith's Witness (vs. 7)

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

A. Noah's Faith Established Based on Hebrews 11:6

- 1. The rules of the game:

Hebrews 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

2. God's testimony about Noah

Genesis 6:9 *This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.*

3. God's acceptance of Noah's offering

Genesis 8:20-21 *Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹ The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma*

SO... therefore, Noah had FAITH... and Hebrews 11 is telling us that Noah's faith was the foundation of his blessed relationship with God

The verse tells us SIX OUTCOMES of Noah's faith

B. Noah's Faith Heeded a Warning of an Invisible Danger

1. Even more than Enoch, Noah lived in a time of relentless wickedness

Genesis 6:11-12 *Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.*

2. God warned Noah of a coming flood... it was a "thing not seen"

- a. The Greek word speaks of a revelation from God which imparts a stern warning
- b. Used twice concerning the events protecting the baby Jesus in Matthew 2: God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod; God warned Joseph in a dream about the danger of Archelaus
- c. So... in some way, whether in a dream, or by direct prophetic revelation, God spoke to Noah of his intentions to destroy the world and His commandment that Noah build an ark

Genesis 6:13-14 *God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.*

Genesis 6:17-18 *I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth*

will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark-- you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.

- d. God was showing His power to rescue godly people from His wrath; Hebrews tells us that Noah faith was at the core of his rescue

3. Remember Hebrews 11:1

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the CONVICTION OF THINGS NOT SEEN

- a. Noah had both sides... a promise from God of deliverance for himself and his family AND
 - b. A conviction of the terror of God's wrath if he rebelled
4. Noah realized he also was a sinner, and that the warning of an impending flood threatened himself and his whole family... he was rebuked/warned by faith of this invisible flood
5. By faith, Noah HEADED THE WARNING
6. Application
- a. The whole Book of Hebrews is a warning epistle
 - b. It warns us not to drift away, turn away, or fall away from Christ
 - c. It warns us of the stealthy and deceptive danger of sin
 - d. It warns us of the fiery indignation and wrath of Almighty God against sin
 - e. Like Noah, it is only BY FAITH that we will heed these warnings

C. Noah's Faith Prompted Holy Fear

- 1. Because Noah took this warning seriously, his heart was moved to holy fear
- 2. The Greek word can be translated reverence... but it is clearly an emotional state... his heart was trembling with the terror of God's astonishing judgment
 - a. The prophets frequently have this reaction

Isaiah 21:3-4 At this my body is racked with pain, pangs seize me, like those of a woman in labor; I am staggered by what I hear, I am bewildered by what I see. ⁴ My heart falters, fear makes me tremble; the twilight I longed for has become a horror to me.

Daniel 8:27 I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for several days. Then I got up and went about the king's business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.

Habakkuk 3:16 I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled.

- b. So should we tremble when we consider the fiery wrath that is coming on the whole earth
 - i) Billions of people will die... 1/3rd of mankind in this or that plague from heaven
 - ii) The sea turned to blood
 - iii) Dead bodies everywhere
 - iv) The elements and everything on earth melting in the heat
 - v) After that, eternity in hell
- c. This terror should move us to save ourselves, our families, our friends, our neighbors, and even total strangers

KJV 2 Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men

D. Noah's Faith Resulted in Obedience

By faith Noah, moved with holy fear, PREPARED AN ARK...

1. From terror to action

Matthew Henry: "Faith first influences our affections and then our actions."

2. Noah did not stay paralyzed, immobile in terror
3. He rose up and OBEYED what God told him to do to escape the coming judgment... HE BUILT AN ARK
4. It was faith resulting in OBEDIENCE... not merely activity; self-directed good works... no, God told Noah exactly what he must do to survive

Genesis 6:14-16 So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵ This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. ¹⁶ Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks.

5. Noah's faith was genuine... and as James tells us, true saving faith ALWAYS results in obedient actions

James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

James 2:17 faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2:22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

So we see Noah's obedience as essential to his salvation and that of his family... which amounted to the entire human race when the flood was done:

Genesis 6:22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

6. So... was Noah saved by WORKS?? Answer: Yes and No

a. If Noah had NOT "prepared an ark" in obedience to God's command, would he not have perished in the flood? YES... so his works were essential to his own salvation

b. BUT his works were based on the GRACE OF GOD all the way through

Genesis 6:7-8 the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth-- men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air-- for I am grieved that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD

c. Furthermore, the Ark was no certain means of human self-salvation

i) It had no mast, no sail, no steering wheel...

ii) It was ENTIRELY in the hands of the loving God to keep it from crashing against the topmost rocks of the mountain peaks and splintering into a thousand pieces

d. Noah made use of the MEANS God had graciously laid out, and God's grace and power made those means turn out for Noah's salvation

7. So it is with us and the gospel: we hear of a coming wrath; we flee to Christ and trust in His promise of eternal life; we are justified by faith alone, apart from works; BUT we must then live a life of obedience by the power of the Spirit... or our faith was not genuine saving faith

E. Noah's Faith Saved His Family

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.

1. God made a sweet promise to Noah concerning himself, his wife, his sons and their wives... He would make a covenant with all of them to save them in the Ark Noah made

Genesis 6:17-18 Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark-- you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.

Genesis 7:1 The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation.

2. So we see the umbrella effect of Noah's faith... His faith sanctified and protected his family from harm
3. So it is today... a godly man will have a deep concern for the salvation of his wife and children... he will have even a multigenerational vision for grandchildren and great-grandchildren... that there be a godly heritage for each of them
4. Noah's faith was essential to his family's salvation
5. BUT in Christ, all a godly father or mother can do is provide physically for the children, and preach the gospel to them and live the gospel in front of them and saturate them with the word of God and bring them to the means of grace (the church) and pray for them... the actual work of salvation is alone worked by God in the heart

F. Noah's Faith Condemned the World

By his faith he condemned the world...

1. Sense #1: He condemned the world BY HIS EXAMPLE and HIS PREACHING before the flood
 - a. As Noah was building the Ark and carrying himself in his usual godly manner, he was exposing and convicting the guilty world of their wickedness
 - b. As Noah was building that Ark also, he was (according to 2 Peter 2) acting as a "preacher of righteousness"... he was proclaiming the salvation that God offered in the Ark... but the people only mocked him and refused to believe him
 - c. His actions left them WITHOUT EXCUSE when the floodwaters came and swept them all away
 - d. So it is today with genuine Christians... by our example and our preaching, we condemn the world, and

2. Sense #2: Noah's faith-filled obedience resulted in an ever-growing Ark... the Ark's progress became an hourglass of the amount of time life in the world; when the Ark was done, the flood came; by his faith he built the Ark, and by the Ark he condemned the world... the rains came when the Ark was done

G. Noah's Faith Made Him an Heir of the Righteousness that Comes by Faith

“and became an heir of the righteousness which is by faith”

1. There is only one way that a sinner can ever be seen to be righteous in God's sight... by the saving work of Christ on the cross
 - a. Abel was justified by faith
 - b. Enoch was justified by faith
 - c. Noah was justified by faith
2. Based on Noah's faith in the Christ who was to come later, God credited Christ's righteousness to Noah by faith

Genesis 15:6 Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Romans 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

3. This is how he became an HEIR of RIGHTEOUSNESS... the actual full inheritance comes later

Philippians 3:8-12 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² ¶ Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

V. Application

- A. Realize all true faith points to CHRIST Ultimately

B. Imitate Enoch's Walk by Faith...

1. Seek to walk with God moment by moment by faith
2. Let faith transform every moment into a possibility of an encounter with the living God
3. Andy Winn and I speaking of Sarah Munday's life and her funeral... we were talking about how Enoch walked with God... and we both felt this would be the best possible epitaph to have on our lives...
4. So often you hear these slogans like "Never met a stranger" or "Live life to the fullest"... how much better to have someone who knew you really well say "He walked with God" or "She walked with God"

C. Imitate Noah's Faith-filled Fear AND Obedience

1. Meditate much on judgment day... knowing full well you will not be condemned... but learning the fear of the Lord that God wants you to have
2. Be deeply convicted by things not seen... the holiness of God, the impending judgment, the giving Christ an account for everything done in the body
3. Ask God to make you as obedient as Noah was...
4. Ask God to give you the same passion Noah had to save his family
5. Be willing to have your life condemn the wickedness of the world
6. BE AN HEIR OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT COMES BY FAITH

D. Yearn for that Inheritance of Righteousness to Come to You