

APPROVED FAITH

Hebrews 11:38-39

Notice with me a commendable faith in God contrasted to a superior favor from God

I. THEM: The Old Testament Faithful (39)

A. THEY GAINED AN APPROVED FAITH

1. Their Distinction: Approved
 - a. It is commendable and reputable
 - b. It is based upon the testimony of one with direct knowledge of the individual
 - See Hebrews 11:4 and Acts 10:22; 16:1-2; 22:12
2. Their Deeds: A faith that works - James 2:16
 - Review the characters and characteristics of those in Hebrews 11
3. Their devotion
 - A faith in what they could not fully see - Hebrews 11:1

B. THEY LACKED THE PROMISE

1. The completion of the revelation was missing
2. They knew of Messiah's predictions but had not seen His presence
3. They were curious but somewhat confused about their predictions - See I Peter 1:10-12

II. US: The New Testament Favored (40a)

- Obtaining "something better"

A. RECEIPIENTS OF THE BETTER WORK OF CHRIST

1. He demonstrates a better priesthood
 - See Hebrews 2:14-18, 7:23-25 and 8:1-2
2. He gives a better offering
 - Review Hebrews 10:3-4, 10, 14
3. He provides a better covenant
 - Consider Hebrews 7:22 (with Luke 22:20 and I Cor. 11:25)
and also Hebrews 8:6-13 and 12:24

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B. GIVEN AN IMMEDIATE HOME IN HEAVEN

1. The Old Testament believer went to Sheol or Hades
 - See Luke 16:19-20
2. Only after Christ's death was Upper Sheol emptied - See Eph. 4:7-11
3. New Testament believers go immediately into God's presence
 - See Luke 23:43, II Cor. 5:8 and Phil. 1:23

III. TOGETHER: The Old and New Testament Ones (40b)**A. THE CONCEPT: Apart from us they are not ...**

1. We are not separated in being made perfect
2. This is not an exclusive thing for either of the groups

B. THE CONDITION: Made perfect

1. Resurrection of the physical body - See I Thess. 4:16 and Rev. 20:4-5
2. Residence in the Heavenly Jerusalem - Note Hebrews 12:22-23

CONCLUSION:**Their faith is approved but our favor is apparent**

- As they watch, let us work (12:1)