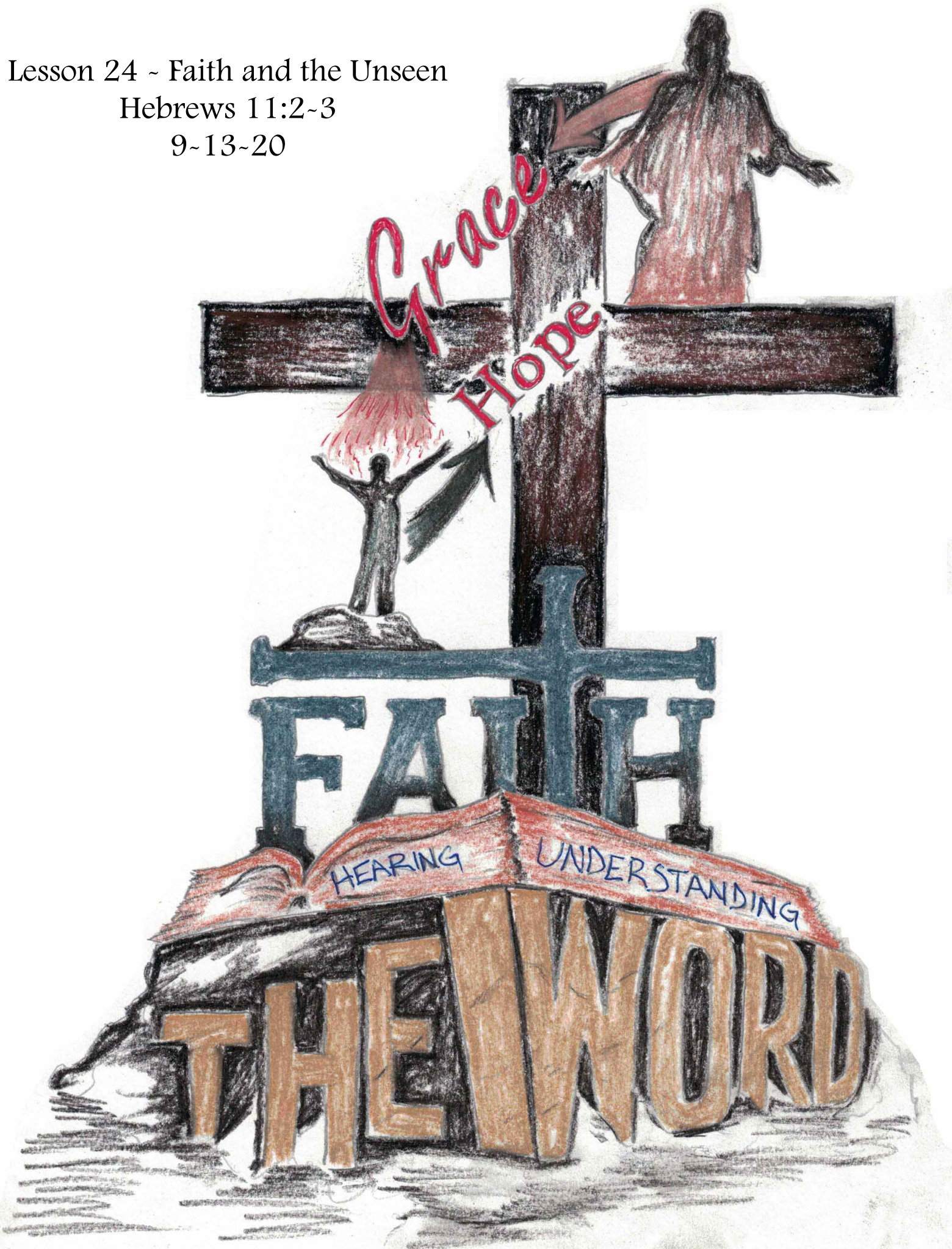


Lesson 24 ~ Faith and the Unseen
Hebrews 11:2-3
9-13-20



~Hebrews~

Lesson 24 - Faith and the Unseen

Last week we learned what faith is and we separated it into 3 categories, now we will learn where faith comes from and the fundamental principles of faith in the unseen realm of God.

- The Description of faith

Faith is the foundation of our hope, the convicting proof of the accomplished, unseen work of Jesus Christ.

**Now faith is the foundation of that which is being hoped for;
the convicting proof of an accomplished work
not physically seen.**

Heb 11:1

- The Function of faith
 - How faith functions in God's Kingdom
 - Faith is the avenue by which we apprehend God's Grace.
 - When the convicting proof of the unseen Jesus takes hold of our heart by the word of God, it opens the avenue to eternal unseen "things"
 - Grace
 - Glory
 - Eternal rewards
 - Eternal inheritance
 - Faith is the requirement to salvation.
 - The connecting agent to God
 - It is by Grace that we are saved, through faith, Eph 2:8
- The Action of faith
 - faith in action is believing.
 - To believe is to be faith-ing your faith
 - Believing is putting your faith to work by placing your hope in Jesus on the solid foundation of faith
 - Which in turn connects you and elevates you to God's grace
- It is so important to be rooted in this understanding of faith.
- Otherwise, you might find yourself hoping in the temporal thing instead of keeping your hope and focus on the eternal Jesus.
- This is what the unbelieving Jews were doing. They were hoping in that which is seen, rather than the unseen power of God.
- Paul is telling them to hope in the unseen Jesus rather than their dead traditions and the obsolete Law.

Paul continues this by building them up on the testimony of the Old Testament heroes of faith.

Hebrews 11:2 For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony.

- The Greek literally says, "For in this", it does not say "by it".
 - To me there is a deeper sense of the word when you are "in" something, rather than "by" something.
 - I want to be "in" Jesus, not just "by" Jesus
- "For in this faith"..., the presbyters, (elders), had a testimony borne unto them
 - This Greek verb is also passive, meaning they are not bearing witness of themselves, but it is God bearing witness of their faith.
 - How extraordinary that would be! To have God so pleased that He bears witness of your faith to build other believers up.

Before Paul begins the exploits of faith, he takes one more verse to emphasize that faith is based and comes out from the unseen realm of God.

- **Our hope is in the unseen accomplished work of Jesus**, of which we place this hope on the **foundation of faith**, which connects us to His Grace and produces in us the **unseen blessings of God**.

Romans 8:23-25 ²³ ...we also who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ **For we were saved in this hope**, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? ²⁵ But **if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.**

Our hope is in Jesus, namely according to Romans, our hope is looking to Jesus to be unified in Him. In which we eagerly wait for the adoption of sons, the redemption of our body.

- Our glorified bodies will be in Jesus.
- We will be one with Him, glorified, and brought together in Him FOREVER

In verse 3, Paul uses the word “we”, showing he is still speaking to the Hebrew Christians.

- The Jews were used to believing in what they see, sacrifices, the temple, the Law.
- Righteousness, which is thru faith and not the Law, is believing in the unseen.
- Paul makes this statement in verse 3 to again to show the contrast between their temporal ways and the eternal ways of God.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

This is a fundamental principle of faith, that God is the Creator of all and the unseen is greater than that which is seen.

- Paul is purposely making this statement before he gives the list of examples of faith showing that even these Old Testament saints were seeking those things that were unseen.
- The basic element of faith, the most foundational convictional proof is that the unseen God created all of us for a specific purpose.
 - Everything seen came out from the unseen Word of God

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

- God has always been and there is nothing that hasn't been created by God
- Isaiah 43:1, 10-12- this could have been on Paul's mind when he was writing this.
- He makes a similar statement just 3 verses later in verse 6.
 - We must believe that HE IS, Heb 11:6
 - He is the I AM, John 8:58, Ex 3:14
 - He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, Rev 1:8
- This is what we stand on. This is our foundation
 - The fact that He loves us so much that He created this world for us
 - and sent His Son to die for us
- This is the mindset we need to have going into chapter 11. An unseen hope in Jesus, the Creator of ALL is greater than that which is of the temporal seen world.

Verse 3 starts out saying, “By faith we understand.”

- There is a vital connection between faith and understanding.
 - To have faith you must have understanding, and to have understanding you must hear the Word of God with expectant ears.
- Paul is tying this back to something he wrote in his epistle to the Romans just a couple of years previous, around 58AD. He says in Romans 10:17:

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Literally, Paul is saying “faith comes out from hearing- (ἐξ ἀκοῆς), but hearing through the word of God, διὰ ἀκοῆς διὰ ῥήματος Θεοῦ (the Rhema of God- this is the spoken Word of God).

Hearing and understanding comes through the Word of God and faith comes out from this understanding

- God's Word is the avenue to understanding
 - We must have ears to hear God's Word, Mark 4:9, Matt 13:9, and all (7) of Jesus epistles in Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22
 - A willingness to not only hear, but accept it into your life and understand it.

Matthew 13:23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the Word and understands it

- Then once we have understanding through the Word, the convicting proof of His Word is brought forth in our spirit and faith comes out from this convicting proof, the understanding of God's Word.
- Last week we spoke about having a firm foundation of faith to stand our hope on, Heb 11:1
 - You get this firm foundation through understanding the Word of God.
 - When Jesus said, “Oh ye of little faith” He did not mean their faith was small, but that their understanding was too small and their foundation was weak, Matt 16:8-12

- Faith is the avenue to God's grace and when our understanding is too small the hinderances of this world overtake our faith. (Parable of the sower- Mark 4, Matt 13)
 - The cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, the lust of other things.
 - These distractions will hinder and stifle the connection of faith.
- It is not that we need to build our faith, but rather we must break down the distractions of this world that hinder our faith
 - We do this by increasing our understanding of Him through His Word.
 - The Word cleanses us, Jn 15:3. It purges these distractions of the world out of our life, Gal 5:16- walk by the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh
 - The less distractions we have, the better connection we have to Jesus

I want you to get this whole picture of the Word of God, Understanding, Faith, Hope, and Grace

- Through the hearing of the Word of God we have a choice to accept this message into our spirit
- By accepting and receiving the Word we gain understanding
- Out from understanding of the Word comes faith
- Faith is the foundation of our hope and is the convicted proof in our hearts of the accomplished, unseen work of Jesus
- Our hope in Jesus, stands firmly on the foundation of faith eagerly looking to Jesus
- It is then through faith that connects us to God's Grace and His Grace is poured into our hearts

and of course, all this hangs on Love.

Heb 11:3 "...the worlds were framed by the Word of God..."

- I am going to focus on two words in this statement
 - **Worlds**- αἰών
 - **Framed**- καταρτίζω
 - This concept that I am going to show you changed my life and how I view the creation.
 - Gaining this concept of creation is the fundamental foundation of faith in God.

The word "framed" καταρτίζω comes first in the Greek

- This word means- formed, equipped, prepared for a purpose
 - The word "framed" gives us that idea
 - It is a purposeful work by someone
- We see this same word in Heb 10:5, "A body You have **prepared** for Me."
 - A body you have framed for Me, prepared for a specific purpose for Me.
 - Jesus was foreordained before the foundation of the world to be the "Lamb of God", the final sacrifice for sin, incarnate in the body of a sinless man.
 - The sinless, perfect human body was formed, equipped, and prepared for a purpose- the redemption of mankind.
 - I am not saying Jesus was created, just the body that He inhabited while in the earth
- So now lets apply this definition to our text.
 - The worlds were formed, equipped, prepared for a purpose.
 - The purpose of His creation was to have an eternal family who loves Him.
 - The worlds were formed, equipped, prepared for the purpose of having a family

The 2nd word to point out is the word "worlds" αἰών. It is one of my favorite words in Greek.

- This word has always intrigued me because it is kind of a mysterious word.
 - One of my favorite Bible verses is 1 John 2:17

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it;
but he who is **committed to the will of God**
abides unto the forever.

The word forever in 1 Jn 1:17 is the same word in the text of Heb 11:3, αἰών.

- This word has been translated ages, time, world, eternity, and forever, which is a pretty wide range of meanings for one word, but that is what is so intriguing about it.

Hebrews 1:2 in these last days (God) has spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds- αἰών;

The forever, αἰών, was created by the Word of God and committed to Jesus, Hebrews 1:2.

- The concept of time is probably the closest translation we have for this word, but it isn't just time.

- It is a period or predetermined sequence of time - “ages”
- Or the housing of the collective creation – “worlds”
- Or my favorite – “eternity or forever”
- Therefore, the **forever** is part of creation.
- God is outside of time.
 - God didn't come out or time, time came out of God.
 - This is why God does not have a beginning or end, because He created the beginning and the end, Rev 1:8

God had to create the forever for us to live forever.

- And what's more, He is going to live in this creation with **US** FOREVER.

Heb 11:3 He formed all this ...by the Word of God

- This is the spoken Word of God.
 - The Rhema - ῥῆμα of God.
- God spoke this creation, the αἰών, into existence by His Word, Genesis 1

Psalms 33:6 **By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,** And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the forever was prepared for a specific purpose by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

This next statement can get a little tricky in the Greek.

- A literal translation of this would be:

Heb 11:3 Unto which (referring to the Word of God), that which is being seen is being brought forth not out from that which is existing (but of that which is not seen)

- This seen, physical creation that is within the αἰών, has been created from things that we do not perceive with our physical senses, namely the Word of God.
- All of creation was made and spoken into existence by the Word of God
- Paul is making a point to show that the unseen things of God are actually more real than the physical things we can perceive.
 - What's greater, the unseen Creator or the seen creation that was created?

Hebrews 3:3-6 ³ For this One (Jesus) has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as **He who built the house has more honor than the house.** ⁴ ... **He who built all things is God.** ⁶ but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are **if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.**

I want to be in the house of Jesus.

- This is the body of Christ, the whole building being fitted together, Eph 3:19-22
- This is our glorification, in Whom we will be if we hold fast this hope in Jesus firm to the end

The unseen attributes of God created everything we see in creation.

And He did this so He could have an eternal
family that loves Him.

It is by faith that we apprehend and understand this concept
of how much our Father loves us

1 John 3:1-3 ¹ Behold **what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us,** that we should be called children of God! ² Beloved, now **we are children of God;** and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him,** for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope **in Him** purifies himself, just as He is pure.

1) This is the hope in Jesus, 2) standing on the foundation of faith, 3) the convicted proof of the unseen accomplished work of Jesus that comes out from our understanding, 4) through the hearing of the Word of God, 5) of which faith connects us to His Eternal Salvation and Grace