

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1160

April 23, 2017

Hebrews 11:1, “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*”

There is no greater hope we have than that of eternal life in Heaven. It's that hope that keeps us going every day amidst the toils and tribulations of this life. For those of the world, it's hard for them to imagine this hope. There is no substance for them to see and behold. There is substance of our hope though, and that is faith. Heaven is not seen but we have evidence of things not seen— faith.

I am sure it's hard for people outside of the LORD to see how we can have such faith. Some might even say they could never have such faith. No one can until one thing is done, and done often. We are told in Romans 10:17, “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

The only way we can ever have the type of faith that gives us the evidence of things not seen is to hear the Word of God. Whether we hear by reading or listening to others read and teach from the Bible, we need to hear often.

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Sunday 9 AM & 6 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

The more we hear, the more our faith will grow. This faith will not only keep us focused on the things we hope for, but it gives us victory. It gives us victory over the world. John wrote in I John 5:4, “*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*”

—Marty Edwards❖

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Ezra 9:2-3, “*2For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of [those] lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass. 3And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished.*”

Ezra was greatly distressed at the news of the people of God intermarrying and mingling with the people of the land. He was so distressed that he tore his clothing, pulled hair out of his head and beard, and sat astonished.

Why would such bother Ezra? It was commanded before that the people were not to even marry out of their tribes and certainly not out of the nation of Israel. The LORD knew marriages to people not of the LORD would turn their hearts from Him.

The people had married out of the LORD's people and they were far from Him. They were so far away that we are told their children could not even speak in the Jew's language. Nehemiah 13:24, “*And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.*” This shows that the children very likely had not been exposed to the teachings of the LORD and the law. The children could not even speak the native language of the Israelites.

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News

—Continue to remember **Sally Marshall, Jewell Watkins, Jean Coffey, Alice Thrasher, Steve Seaton, and Brad Terry.**

—This coming Wednesday night we will finish the study of Daniel. After this, we will look at the 12 minor prophets. These are books not often studied, yet full of treasures and encouragement for us.

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The LORD has not commanded the same regarding marriage for us today, with the exception of a widow marrying in the LORD. But, consider how easily our hearts can be pulled from the LORD when those closest to us are not following the LORD.

We need to have people close to us who are in the LORD— not only in marriage, but our close friends, business partners, and anyone we deal with regularly. When those closest to us are members of the LORD’s body, it makes it so much easier for us to remain faithful.

Paul warned of this in I Corinthians 15:33, “*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*” The American Standard Version of that verse is translated, “*Be not deceived, evil companionships corrupt good morals.*”

When we are closely bound to others on a daily basis who are not serving the LORD, it’s more challenging to stay close to the LORD. It’s much easier for our faith to dwindle and our hearts begin to drift away from the LORD. We need to go the opposite direction. James 4:8, “*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.*” One of the best ways to do that is to be close to others who also want to be close to the LORD.

—Marty Edwards❖

Sunday, April 16, 2017		
Classes	20	Colossians 2:1-3
Preaching	40	Hebrews 5:12-14; Revelation 10:1-11
Contribution	\$683.50	
Evening	16	Revelation 5:1-14
Wednesday, April 19, 2017		
Classes	16	Daniel 11:1-45

Apr 16 (AM) Faye Edwards (Lonoke, KY); David, Denessa & Mikaela Worth (Elizabethtown, KY); Cody Napper (Elizabethtown, KY); Cody, Taylor, Ellie & Easton Ballard (Hiseville, KY); Melissa Shively (Canmer, KY); Anthony & Lauren Candella (Elizabethtown, KY) Mark, Kim & Mylaka Quigley (Glasgow, KY)

Visitors—

Bible Quiz

What did John see in the midst of the throne as it had been slain?

Last Week’s Answer— A lion (Revelation 4:7)

—God’s Plan of Salvation—	
1.	Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2.	Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3.	Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4.	Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5.	Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6.	Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)