HEBREWS: CHRIST IN ALL OF SCRIPTURE AMEN BIBLE STUDY 2017-2018

Faith that Looked Forward to Christ Hebrews 11:32-40 April 12, 2018

Introduction

I. Faith and Deliverance (vs. 11:32-35 a) Gideon (Jud. 6-8) Barak (Jud. 4-5) Samson (Jud. 13-16) vs. 33-35a – selected events in OT history

Jephthah (Jud. 11-12) David (1, 2 Samuel) Samuel (1 Samuel)

II. Faith in Suffering (vs. 11:35b-38)
"Others..."
Daniel ch. 3: two kinds of experience in the lives of God's people

 III. Epilogue (11:39, 40) We are completed in Christ with all Old Covenant believers. The new Covenant pointed to a better: hope (7:19), covenant (7:22), promise (8:6), sacrifice (9:23), possession (10:34), resurrection (11:35)
v. 40 "made perfect (complete, finished)" with us in Christ 12:2

"God wished to bring us all together in one Body, ...and put off its complete perfection to our time, that is, to the advent of Christ... What more could any of us desire than that we should have a share in all the benefits which God bestowed upon Abraham, Moses, David, and all the patriarchs, prophets, and good kings, so as to be united with them in the Body of Christ?" -John Calvin, Hebrews 11

Discussion Questions

1. In your own words, how would you describe the 'tension' between the faith of Old Covenant believers ("not yet") and that of New Covenant believers ("already")?

2. What are the 'two kinds of experiences' in the lives of believers described in our passage?

3. How does God's character and faithfulness impact your view of your circumstances?

4. What does v. 40 mean when it says that for the Old Covenant believers, "apart fromus" they would "not be made perfect"?

A <u>resource</u> to consider regarding faith in suffering – *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, edited by William Byron Forbush