

HOW TO WALK WITH GOD

Heb 11:5, 6

INTRO

- Today we are blessed to participate in the **baptism** of **4** dear saints
 - For their benefit ... and ours ... we'll explore: *How to Walk with God*
- Thus far in our series from Hebrews Chpt 11 ~ we've learned from **Abel** that in order to be **get right** with God ... we must come to God by way of a blood sacrifice
 - Today - **Enoch** will show us how to **stay right** w/ God ~ **walking w/ God**
 - **Enoch** – *the father of Methuselah* – lived prior to the Flood
 - Which was a very difficult time for God's Children ... **Gen 6:5, 6**
- Earth was no longer the paradise God created ~ it was no longer a place of fellowship between **God** the **Creator** *and* **His** creation
 - However ~ **Enoch** hadn't give into the pressures of his sin-sick culture -- he didn't live a "politically correct" life
 - **Baptism Candidates** *Following the Crowd can lead you to no - where*
- Instead of doing the popular thing ~ **Enoch** decided to do the **right thing**
 - So ... **by faith** ~ **Enoch walked with God**
 - To learn from his example ~ we need to consider **four** aspects of the life of **Enoch** ... beginning with:

ENOCH'S PERSUASION ABOUT GOD

[Faith]

Bottom line: God doesn't want us to have a religion ... He wants us to have a relationship

- **Enoch** is listed in "Faith's Hall of Fame" ... for a very specific reason: **Heb 11:5**
 - **Faith** in the Bible means a firm persuasion - which guides/directs one's actions
 - **Columbus** *believed the world was round ... 7 yrs for \$\$... he sailed west*
 - A great Biblical illustration of Faith is found in **Rom 4:19 - 21**

- When we reflect upon **Enoch's faith** ... **Hebrews 11:6** makes more sense
- Important for us to understand the kind of faith which pleases God (**Last Sabbath**)
 - Of course we must believe that God exists ~ but **not** like a **Deist**
 - A faith which enables us to walk with God in a way which pleases Him involves more than just believing in an impersonal Creator
- Let's notice how **King David** illustrates this truth ... **Psm 139:13 & 16**
 - When we were being formed in our mother's womb ... God was already our personal Lord ~~ and He had a plan for our lives
 - **Enoch** was firmly persuaded that God wasn't only the Great Creator ...
 - but also a God w/ whom he had a **personal relationship**

TRANS: We too can have faith in a **Creator** ~ **personal** God ... let's also notice:

ENOCH'S MEDITATION ON GOD

- We need to internalize the truth of - **Heb 11:6 b**
 - God rewards those who seek fellowship with Him ~ He respects our choice
 - **Diligently/earnestly** is interesting = sincerely, seriously, productively
 - So how did Enoch '**earnestly**' seek fellowship with God ...
 - ... there was **no** face-to-face interaction anymore ...
 - ... there was **no** weekly Sabbath worship to attend ...
 - ... there was **no** written word for him to read
 - Enoch meditated on God
- Term many aren't familiar with ~ some associate it w/ Eastern mythical religions
 - Truth is ~~ **we all meditate** ... we just call it something else: **worry**

- If we know how to **worry** ... then we know how to **meditate**
 - Worry is taking a negative thought and thinking @ it over, and over, and over
 - Meditation is taking Scripture and thinking about it over and over ...
 - ... with the **purpose** of applying the principles to one's life
 - **Joshua 1:8** [Book of the Law written by Moses; authoritative]
- **Meditation is essential for our walking with God**
 - Walking with God requires both knowing ... and ... obeying God's Word
 - In our sermon on Cain & Able -- we saw one meditated ~ other didn't
 - Enoch's life is summed up in just **four** verses of Genesis Chpt 5 ...
 - ... and **twice** in those verses we're told: **Enoch walked with God**
- Please be aware there's something very real which can prevent us from walking w/God:
 - **Ish 59:2**
 - **Iniquity** = an act of injustice
 - **Sin** = conduct contrary to Gods Word
 - **So** ~ when we abandon fairness when dealing with people ... or have unconfessed sin in our life - **God will not walk w/ us**
 - God gives us a list of the most common sins which prevent us from walking with Him: **Eph 4:31** //
- Some of you are thinking ... why are so many sins **omitted** from this list ~~ like:
 - Stealing ~ drunkenness ~ lying ~ murder ~ sexual immorality
 - To walk with God ... we must not only avoid sinful behaviors ... we must also **replace** them ~ look at **V 32**
 - When we're obedient to V 32 ~ we won't do those **"other sins"**

TRANS: To walk with God ... we need faith in a **Creator** - **personal** God ... we must **meditate** on Him - and - His Word ~~ there's more:

ENOCH'S PROCLAMATION ABOUT GOD

- To walk with God - Enoch went against the expectations of the wicked culture ~ and he proclaimed God's Truth to a sinn-sick world
 - **Jude 14, 15**
 - We serve a God of love, mercy, and grace ~~ but He's also punishes sin
 - God loves the sinner ... but ... not their sin
 - It is often overlooked today ... but **Jesus** taught more about **Judgment** than He did about reward and Heaven
- **Gen 5:22** tells us Enoch walked with God for **300 years** ...
 - *Today* ~ if we want to walk with God ... we must consistently meditate on His Word by reading it / living it / and **sharing** it
 - **As we start 2020** ... how many of us can say the Holy Spirit used us to lead a sinner to their Savior in **2019** { **P** }

TRANS: Not only do we need faith in our **Creator** - **personal** God ... but this faith needs to lead us to **contemplate** Him, His Word ~ and then be His **witness** to others

Finally ... let's consider:

ENOCH'S TRANSLATION BY GOD

- God was so please w/ how Enoch walked with Him ... apparently ... He wanted Enoch to come to Heaven
 - **Gen 5:24**
 - Some assert this was the most significant event of the **antediluvian** era
 - Enoch's departure was seen by the righteous and wicked (PP/88)
 - God used this event to motivate the few living faithful ... and ...
 - ... to validate the certainty of His promised deliverance from sin / death
- Bible **doesn't** say **HOW** God accomplished this impressive feat ...
 - ... only **1** other saint was translated into Heaven **w/o** dying **2 Kings 2:11**

- God may have taken **Enoch** like He translated **Elijah** ~ or:
 - ... it may have been like the translation of believers when Jesus returns:
 - **1 Thess 4:16, 17**
- **"HOW"** God took **Enoch** is an interesting question to ponder ~ but it's not critical ... or God would have told us how He did it
 - The important thing is not **HOW** ... but rather **TO WHERE**
- This is true for you and me ...
 - It's not really important when we die ~ where - or- how we die
 - *The only important thing is where we'll spend eternity*
 - If we're like Enoch ...
 - And **believe** that God is ... and He rewards those who **seek** after Him through Jesus ...
 - ... and **walk** with God while we await Christ's return ...
 - **THEN** ~ one day ... *maybe sooner than we think* ... we'll go to be with God and find that God is also pleased with us
 - By walking with God ~ we can anticipate hearing:

Well done, good and faithful servant

PUBLIC EXAMINATION