

A Brief Consideration of Hebrews 11:1-2

by **BOB CASEY**, preacher
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In my personal observation of Hebrews 11, my analysis is in no way completed regarding the messages contained in these verses. But, what we can find is so valuable to any person seeking to please God and with a desire to inherit his blessings.

It begins by using the word, "faith," then proceeds to give us a definition of what faith is. Now, there are many who have faith in many things that are found upon the earth, but the faith mentioned here is in regard to Heavenly things; so, this should get our attention.

So, faith is made up of substance; so, it is our duty to find out what it is. Now Romans 10:17 says that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." So, then, in our quest to find what faith is, we are restricted to one book, the Bible. This is our true foundation.

To begin: the word substance means a continuing existence. In reference, it means the very essence of God himself. So, faith is a continual belief in the deity of the Godhead. In 1st John 5:7, it says, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." So, again, if we fully believe in the deity of God and his Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, we will work towards gaining the hope for things. What are they? Adam Clark says that peace, our approval of God, and the blessings from God which a person has attained will prepare him for God's eternal home. So, obedient faith will place one

in the possession of a pardon from sin.

The third they mentioned is things unseen. Notice that these things are distinguished from the things hoped for. Notice the things hoped for are told us in the Bible and we can obtain them while we are living, but the things not seen as yet are in the future with the Lord. In Revelations 21:1-6, here John the Apostle tried to give us some insight or previews of the unseen things that are awaiting the faithful in Christ Jesus. Read the entire chapter, see what it says.

Last of all, the evidence? Meaning things clearly seen. This is a reference to the life that has prepared itself to live forever by hearing, obeying the plan that in deed saves them, such as Acts 2:37-47. Then after one's obedience to salvation, one must continue to do the will of God as every confessed Christian should do. No true convert would dare to absence themselves to the Lord's Day church attendance for any reason except sickness or accident. So, those who do not, and will not have the evidence that will show that they have a true devotion to our Saviour. So evidences are based upon factuality.

In Hebrews 5:8-9, it says (speaking of Jesus) "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9And being made perfect..." How? By doing all the things the father sent him to do. Are we trying to do likewise? In doing this, "he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." I ask, do you desire to attain to the unseen things? I truly hope so. But, let me warn you, if you are not giving our Lord first place in your life, you will never see the unseen place called Heaven.

Attend with us. We will study together to truly see if you are prepared.

Sincerely, B. Casey (1-859-369-4165)

Kitchen Diva A Christmas Party with Purpose

by **ANGELA SHELF MEDEARIS**

If you love to entertain, but feel pressured by the holiday rush, why not host a party with a purpose? A tree-trimming party is one of the easiest ways to have a fun gathering for family and friends while getting some of your holiday decorating done. It's best to schedule your party early in December, before the holiday crush of shopping and holiday events are in full force. If possible, give your guests at least two to four weeks notice.

Preparing for the party:

* Set up your tree and string it with lights before your guests arrive. Clear out the area around the tree so everyone has easy access to hang the ornaments.

* Add festive garlands or pine cone roping around the fireplace, over the doors and throughout the house. Add colorful ornaments in decorative glass bowls and vases and place them around the room. Scatter wrapped Christmas candies on the tables.

* To give your home a holiday aroma, place a few cinnamon sticks or 2 tablespoons of cinnamon, 2 tablespoons of vanilla and 3 cups of water in a pot and bring it to a boil. Play your favorite holiday music to set the mood.

* Fill an assortment of baskets, tins or decorative boxes with red, green, gold or white tissue paper or colorful shredded paper and carefully place your ornaments in the baskets along with hooks or ribbon to hang them on the tree. If your ornament collection includes treasured heirlooms, hang them yourself, either before guests arrive or wait to hang them until after they've left.

* Ask your guests to decorate an ornament or two and hang them on the tree. Have the kids cut out ornaments from construction paper and decorate the front with markers, sticker and glitter. You also can make and bake your own ornaments (see recipes below for Cinnamon Dough and Salt Dough Ornaments) or you can buy plain wooden ornaments from a craft store. Have your guests decorate them with paints or markers and write their names and the date on the back.

* To make old-fashioned garlands, set-up large bowls of popcorn or cranberries, large sewing needles and spools of heavy red, gold or green thread for guests to use to string the decorations for the tree. Thread the needles before your guests arrive, but do not cut the thread from the spool. It will take a lot of thread for the popcorn garland to cover an entire tree.

It's best to slide the piece of popcorn or cranberry to the end of the thread to prevent knots. Make sure that it is well-secured, so that popcorn or cranberries won't fall off, and then gently cut the thread.

* Set a table with simple finger foods and appetizers with a winter or Christmas theme, or purchase platters from your local grocery store or gourmet deli.

* Serve a variety of drinks, including hot chocolate, coffee, eggnog, cider punch and water.

* Purchase some mini Christmas stockings as parting gifts. Fill them with a selection of holiday chocolates or peppermint sticks, or for the children, a Christmas puzzle or holiday coloring book with crayons.

Remember, relax, have fun, make memories, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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CINNAMON ORNAMENTS

- 3/4 cup applesauce
- 1 cup cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon ground cloves
- 1 tablespoon nutmeg
- 1. Heat oven to 150 F.
- 2. Combine all of the ingredients in a medium bowl. Work dough until smooth. Dust rolling surface and pin with more cinnamon, and roll the dough to 1/3 inch thickness. Use cookie cutters to cut out shape, and make a hole near the top with a straw or pencil. Makes 12-14 medium ornaments.
- 3. Bake for 2 1/2 hours on an ungreased cookie sheet, flipping halfway through the baking time. Cool on a wire cookie rack. When completely cooled, paint with acrylic paints or markers. String a piece of ribbon or raffia through the hole.

SALT DOUGH ORNAMENTS

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1/2 cup water
- 1. Heat oven to 250 F.
- 2. Combine all of the ingredients in a medium bowl. Work the dough until smooth; add a little more flour if sticky, or a little more water if crumbly. Dust the rolling surface and pin with more flour, and roll the dough to 1/3 inch thickness.
- 3. Use cookie cutters to cut out shape, and make a hole near the top with a straw or pencil.
- 4. Bake for 2 hours on an ungreased cookie sheet. Cool on a wire cookie rack. When completely cooled, paint with acrylic paints or markers. String a piece of ribbon or raffia through the hole. Makes 15-20 medium ornaments.

 Angela Shelf Medearis is an award-winning children's author, culinary historian and the author of seven cookbooks. Her new cookbook is "The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook." Her website is www.divapro.com. To see how-to videos, recipes and much, much more, Like Angela Shelf Medearis, The Kitchen Diva! on Facebook. Recipes may not be reprinted without permission from Angela Shelf Medearis.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Ruth in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. In 2 Kings 13, what prophet ordered a king to shoot arrows out of a window? Paul, Job, Elisha, David

3. How many books of the Bible (KJV) are only

three letters long when spelled out? 0, 1, 2, 3

4. What prophet saw "the tents of Cushan in affliction"? Japheth, Noah, Hezekiah, Habakkuk

5. Who said, "Lord, increase our faith"? Jonah, Disciples, Moses, Jacob

6. From Joel 2:6, what shall all faces gather? Sunlight, Blackness, Fear, Warmth

Answers on bottom of Page 11

Now available by Wilson Casey!
 2017 Bible Trivia box calendar loaded with daily teasers from TouchPointPress.com



A soldier wrote his dad from a combat zone in a war-torn country. In the upper left hand corner under his name he wrote, "Not Here for Very Long."

True of the soldier - true of each of us. Life at its longest is very short in light of eternity. Wisely Moses advised us to go to God and ask Him to: "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

Time has no favorites. We are each given twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and fifty-two weeks a year. It does not matter who we are or what God has called us to do, none of us can add one second of time to our lives once God has called us home. We must

guard our time and use it wisely to honor and glorify Him.

Time can be used to influence others - one way or another. It would be interesting to keep a record of our time as an accountant does money - what we spent and how we invested it. We could see what we did with our time and discover whether or not we helped or hindered others, led them closer to God or drove them from Him.

Time gives us opportunities to serve the Lord. Jesus said, "All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned by the One who sent Me and there is little time left before night falls and all our works come to an end."

Time ends with an interview. Each of us will stand before God one day and have an opportunity to review our record with Him. What will matter most is whether or not there will be a day when we surrendered our life to Him.

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

EZEKIEL 34:12

As a **shepherd** looks **after** his **scattered flock** when he is **with** them, so **will I look** after my **sheep**. I will **rescue** them **from** all the **places** where **they were** scattered on a **day** of **clouds** and **darkness**.

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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Our Bodies Are Members of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:12-17)

12All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 13Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. 14And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. 15Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. 16What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. 17But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

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