Good Morning

I have been selecting these devotionals from my own reading in Scripture each day. I use the M’Cheyne reader that we have in the church. Today I have read Numbers 8 – the ordination of priests; not much there to adapt for today. I also have Psalm 44 – complaints of God seeming to be abandoning the nation Israel - little to connect with there. Song of Solomon 6 – there is lots to relate to there, but these devotional are G rated.

Then we have Hebrews 6:9, “But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation…” This is the authors’ sense of assurance concerning the Hebrews to whom he writes. He is dealing with ‘holy brethren’ 3:1 who are Jews that share his faith in Christ, and ‘brethren’ 3:12 who are all the members of Israel. Here he is talking of holy brethren of whom he can be convinced of their position in the Kingdom because, “For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.”

How does one know that he or she is saved? How do you recognize someone else’s faith? You do it In your own life change or theirs’s. You do it in the different thoughts that now enter into your mind and the different words that someone else expresses. Also in the different things that recognize as important and then seek to do them. It is in the change of behavior of you and of that other person. Those things are not temporary, but come to be a consistent part of your life and the life of all whom God has saved. All things truly become new – and it shows.

It also becomes the desire of each Believer to “…show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” Everyone who knows the author of Hebrews well, knows that he is leading up to chapter 11. There he will name some of the great heroes of faith. This is to encourage his readers to follow their example whether it is defeating the enemies of Israel, or suffering persecution and even death to witness the truth of God. Here in 6:11-12, the author desires that his readers strive on in the faith that he is convinced they possess; that they press on to the full assurance of the hope they already have. He desires that they do not lag behind for any reason, but strive until they inherit all the promises God has for them.

He uses just one illustration and that is God Himself and His promise to Abraham. God swore that Abraham would be a blessing to all generations and have a son and Abraham believed that. Just as God has proven faithful to Abraham and all believers who came after him, so we can trust that once God begins a good work in us, He will perform it to the end. That is the hope that “we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

A resent term for believers is “follower of Jesus.” It is a great description for this passage. We follow Jesus who has entered within the veil into the very presence of God the Father. Where Jesus is, there we too are following.

From this side of the veil to the next!

In Christ Pastor EA