Good Morning!

Today we will again be in Hebrews chapter 11, the faith chapter! Yesterday we looked at faith and what it is. Our faith will eventually be culminated in Jesus Christ in 12:2, “…fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” That is the object of our faith. But between 11:1 and that verse we have many things the author wants us to realize.

The first thing that this author wants us to realize is that God created this world out of nothing. He created it – not recreated it. There was nothing, and He made it out of nothing totally of Himself.

So the question immediately comes up, “Do you have to believe in a 6 day creation in order to be saved?” The correct answer is a *qualified no!* What does that mean? Well if you are like me and you didn’t have a badge for Sunday school attendance, then you knew very little or nothing at all of Enoch and Noah or even Abraham and Sarah. Even though I did have a sporadic attendance to church, I was never taught that Creation or the Flood were anything significant and certainly not necessary to believe in.

But I did get saved. How did that happen? Because I believed in Jesus Christ and understood that I was a sinner and that only in His grace and mercy I would find redemption. Also note that I could not have articulated all that at the time I was saved! I had no definition of grace or redemption, but I knew what I needed. In believing by faith I agreed to accept everything that Jesus would tell me experientially and especially by His Word. You see, I accepted Him as Lord. He was God and whatever He said must be right. I could not pick and choose. So in my *qualified no* in answer to the question of 6 day creation, you certainly do not have to understand everything before you believe. However, you do need to accept the Word as it is written. In the Gospel of John, he begins with Jesus is **The Word**. 2 Tim. 3:16 reminds us that all scripture is inspired by God. We come to the Word of God looking for insights from the Lord Himself. He is revealed in it from Gen. 1:1 to Rev. 22:21.

So the one who has developed the habit of questioning things in the Scriptures when they are uncomfortable needs to understand that that is sin. This is not the person who doesn’t understand a particular passage or on who struggles to accept something that is hard. This is the person who is using some other source as authoritative and the Bible must conform to that. He will only accept that which makes sense to him. This is not any type of Biblical faith. This is only faith in himself.

You need a God who *has* to have made creation out of nothing. Any other scenario of creation diminishes Him to some demi-god status that is just a super powerful example of us. He would be just a Zeus, or Apollo, or Odin. God must be God and that must be a God who does the impossible.

Therefore our author here in the Faith chapter starts in the beginning. Do you believe that God is God? If these Jews who have had the OT for all their lives have not come to understand the nature of the God of whom we talk, then how can they say they have faith? In what would they have faith? You do not have to believe everything at the time of your salvation, but you do need to believe Jesus is a God that can do the impossible.

Tomorrow we deal with Noah and the flood and, “Does God make mistakes?”

In Christ Pastor EA