Good Morning!

Are you children of Abraham?

“O, you mean am I a Jew? Well, no, I am certainly not!”

We gave the name “Hebrews” to this letter a century after it was written. That the author was a Jew who knew the Old Testament well and was writing to the Hebrew people wherever they lived is an absolute certainty by its content and argument. Nowhere do you find that clearer than his use of Abraham as proof of truly believing.

Line and decent was everything to the Jews of the First Century. At family gatherings and festivals the boys in the family would be lined up, and each one would recite their common linage back to Abraham. They did this for the benefit of all the elder relatives who remembered their youth when they would do the same for now long dead relatives. Abraham was their source and their greatest honor. They all traced their significance bask to him.

For the saved Jew of the early church, Abraham was an example of faith. He began their tribe, their family by faith. If you missed this, then you missed what actually made Abraham great.

First Abraham was called and he obeyed – by faith. He went into his inheritance, knowing he would never see it acquired. Did you ever think just how absurd this is by human reasoning? “Abraham, I want you to leave your family and friends and your house and home, and I want you to go into a land your descendants will someday have, but you never will.” “Ah… say again Lord, because I sure I didn’t get that right the first time.”

First Abraham was called and he obeyed – by faith. How could he do that? Well, the author tells us how he could do that. “By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land,* dwelling in tents… for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

We understand Abraham’s faith when we understand his motivations. He was not looking for an earthly Jerusalem or Hebron or Samaria. He was looking for a better city, that is, a heavenly one. “Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God…”

So who are children of Abraham? Paul tells us that all who come by faith just as Abraham did (Gal. 3:7 & 29). Here the author tells us just how Abraham came. He was not looking to rituals or laws; he just believed God and followed. He always had his eyes on the ultimate promise of God - heaven. When we come to faith in Jesus Christ, and subsequently follow Him, then we are children of the same faith as Abraham. We are the genuine children of Abraham.

So today, fellow children of Abraham, we follow Jesus Christ, not counting this world as our home, but with our eyes on Christ, the author and finisher of our faith.

Have a blessed day in the Savior!

In Christ Pastor EA