

Hebrews 11:1-6
"God's Activity"

As I contemplated what I would preach today. A very important day in the life of this church and the life of my family. My initial thought was to go to my catalog of 400+ sermons and choose what I considered to be my very best. Considering the magnitude of this day and the potential ramifications of this sermon, that made perfect sense. And I had one in mind, one you will certainly hear at another time, prayerfully. But the Holy Spirit would not let me preach it. And in that very moment, standing in my kitchen, the question we were to tackle today came to me. **Have we truly considered, very seriously, the goodness of God as evidenced by God's activity on our behalf? On humanity's behalf? Have we given earnest thought to who God is based on God's pursuit of humanity starting with our creation through our salvation? If we have given serious consideration the only reasonable, warranted response is belief. Or as our text coins it, faith. Make a note, the two are synonymous.** Standing there in my kitchen I was overcome by thoughts of God's activity on our behalf as evidenced in scripture; realizing that this moment, our coming together, is in fact God's activity, too. God is the one who acts, we respond, and the only reasonable response to what God has done and is doing is belief, faith. **V6 "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is".** He is what? Well, three answers to this question drawn from the text. Three answers that will hopefully help us more faithfully

consider the goodness of God as evidenced by God's activity on our behalf.

First, God is the one who created. V3 Nothing simply happened. No, God brought all things into existence. Even you and me. Even, this very church. As such, we know all things belong to God. And since we belong to Him, we must trust that what He is doing, whether understood or not is for our good. This truth is vital to our fulfilling our God given purpose, which is to worship and enjoy Him forever. I believe the primary crisis facing this country, even our world, is we do not know to whom we belong, or rather, we refuse to except that we belong to Him.

Psalm 33:6 "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host."

Col 1:16 "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him."

Eph 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Second, God is the one that forgives and establishes the requirement for His forgiveness. V4 This truth certainly challenges our pluralistic culture, even some in the church who have, unfortunately, acquiesced to the idea that truth is relative. That is to say that truth is contextual. That it depends on the particulars of the situation. That certainly wasn't the case when it came to Cain and Abel. Abel provided what God required and received the forgiveness that God offered. Cain did not, even though he gave God what he considered was his very best. Cain

offered what he concluded was acceptable not what God required. Church, the caution for us here is not to cast off what God provides or requires. Especially, Jesus.

Matt 17:5 “He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”

John 6:28-29 “Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God? Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

Romans 10:8-10 “⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Finally, God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. V6

What is the reward you ask? Like Enoch, everlasting life with God. God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. That diligently seek, in the Greek the word for this phrase is *ek-zay-tay-o* and it means to seek out, to search for. How do we do this? We do this through Godly activity like today. The reading and preaching of God’s word, the worship of God with God’s people. Through these activities we learn to believe God and the one God has sent, Jesus. And through Jesus we are assured everlasting life with God.

Isaiah 55:6-8 “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will

abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.”

God is the one who created, the one that forgives and a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. **Have we truly considered, very seriously, the goodness of God as evidenced by God’s activity on our behalf?** If not, no better day than today to do so. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.