

THE PATRIARCH'S FAITH

Hebrews 11:13-16

**The patriarchs were motivated by something better
as they journeyed through this life**

I. THEY ENDURED (13a)

A. THEIR PASSION (or position)

- Dying in faith

1. Their condition

- They did not falter or fail in their walk with God but finished well

2. The contrast

- Those without faith live in fear! - See Heb. 10:29-31

B. THEIR PERSPECTIVE

1. Not fully blessed ...

a. The promises were not received

b. This lack did not make the promises invalid, just incomplete

2. But content!

a. They saw the promises from a distance

b. They welcomed those promises

II. THEY CONFESSED (13b-14)

A. THEIR STATUS (13b)

1. Strangers: A drifter or foreigner

2. Exiles: Non-permanent residents

B. THEIR EXPECTATION (14b)

1. A country of their own

2. Something independent of this world

3. Application: Are we seeking something more, or do we think we've already found it?

C. THEIR TESTIMONY (14a)

1. Making clear their ambition and attitude by the way they talked

2. By listening to them, people knew where they were headed

3. Application: What do people hear from us and what message does it convey?

III. **THEY FOCUSED** (15-16a)

A. NOT ON GOING BACK ... (15)

1. Not thinking back
 - Paul tells us to forget those things which are behind - Phil. 3:13
2. Not turning back
 - a. Chorus: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
 - b. Application: Some will go back ... but we must not! - See Heb. 3:12, 4:11-14 and 6:11-12

B. ... BUT ON WHAT'S AHEAD (16a)

1. Desiring something better
2. Yearning for Heaven
3. Application: Where do we focus?

IV. **THEY SHINED** (16b)

A. BECAUSE GOD IS PROUD OF THEM

1. He's not ashamed to be identified with them
2. This is the kind God likes to claim - Exp: Job 1:8
3. These truly glorify God

B. BECAUSE GOD PREPARED FOR THEM

1. He anticipates and expects their arrival
2. Providing a city for desert-dwelling nomads (cf. 11:10)

CONCLUSION:

- What motivates us?
- What is worth living for?
- What are we looking for?

**Like the patriarchs, might we look forward to heaven and not focus on earth ...
Let's be seeking something better!**