

The Victorious Cloud of Witnesses

Introduction:

- A. *"We are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith" (Heb 10:39).*
- B. *"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb 11:1).*
- C. *"By (faith) the people of old received their commendation" (Heb 11:2).*
 - 1. To *commend* is to present, mention or praise as worthy.
 - 2. A *commendation* is a good report, a positive testimony, an approval.
- D. What sort of "*commendation*" did these "*people of old*" receive?
 - 1. *"Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matt 25:21).*
 - 2. David *"served the purpose of God in his own generation" (Acts 13:36).*
- E. Now, they are pictured as "*a great cloud of witnesses*" that surround us (*Heb 12:1*). What are they saying? What can we learn?

The Testimony of the Victorious Cloud of Witnesses

- 1. "You have a _____." (11:3)
- 2. "As Creator, he ultimately determines what is righteous and acceptable." (11:4)
- 3. "_____ him is what matters more than anything else." (11:5-6)
- 4. "Reverently heed your Creator's warnings, even when you are in the minority." (11:7)
- 5. "Follow his _____, even when you can't see beyond every twist and turn in the road." (11:8)
- 6. "He is the designer and builder of an eternal dwelling place." (11:9-10)
- 7. "Trust that God is _____ to keep his promises." (*Heb 11:11-12, 17-22*)
- 8. "This world is not our home; we're just passing through." (*Heb 11:13-16*)
- 9. "_____ God above anyone else." (*Heb 11:23-31*)
- 10. "Endure faithfully till the end as God's servant." (*Heb 11:32-38*)
- 11. "To be commended through faith is to gain _____ that overcomes the world." (11:39-40)

The Pivotal Questions

- 1. "Which _____ am I a part of?" (*Heb 10:39; Matt 7:13-14*)
- 2. "If I want to share in victory, what must I do?"

"Therefore, Let Us Also..." (12:1-2)

- 1. Lay aside every _____ (*Luke 8:14*)
- 2. Lay aside sin which clings so closely (*Acts 2:38*)
- 3. _____ with endurance the race that is set before us (*1 Cor 15:58*)
- 4. Look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith (*1 Cor 4:5*)