

ALL FOR NOTHING

Hebrews 11, 12 Key verses: 12:1-3

Introduction: How many parents have worked hard to send their only son or daughter to college and one day that son or daughter comes home and announces that he/she is tired of all that school work and is dropping out. What about that mom who sat up for hours knitting a sweater for her son and when she gave it to him he sneered his nose up at it and said it was ugly.

Every one of us have been there. All of us have at one time or other had our hearts broken. We poured out our love to someone in some way, only to have it flung back in our faces.

We have all had our moments of hard feelings, even hate, anger, pity toward those who cast aside our labors of love.

Maybe, just maybe you may have been the guilty one. You ignored, cast aside, made fun of, ignored something someone did for you out of their concern or love for you.

God reminds us that through the past times before us, there have been countless who sacrificed so much that we might have eternal life today. Were their sacrifices all for nothing? Not if:

I. WE PREACH AND TEACH THE SAME MESSAGE

1. This is God's universe and it hasn't changed since He started it. Light still travels at the speed of 186,000 miles per second and in 2 seconds we could pass the moon, in 8 minutes the sun and in 5 hours be at the edge of our solar system. In 4 years be at our nearest star and in 100,000 years be out of our galaxy, the Milky Way and in 1,500,000 years be in the nearest galaxy next to ours. Yet Isaiah reminds us that God holds all of that in the palm of His hand. (**40:12**).
 - God didn't make us out of some slime floating out in space somewhere.
2. There is only ONE God but man has thought up all sorts of other beings he calls "gods."
3. Jesus is God's ONLY Son. To leave Jesus out is to leave God out.
4. Judgment is sure and certain. The good news is good news only if it is delivered and then believed.

II. WE ALSO HATE THE EVIL THEY HATED

1. Noah hated the evil behavior and lifestyles of the people of his day.
 - Moses hated the injustice of people being made slaves to other people.
 - Joshua hated the deceitfulness of the people of his time.
 - Habakuk hated what alcohol did to the people in his day.
 - John the Baptist hated adultery.
 - Paul hated the immorality, apostasy and laziness within the early churches.
 - James hated the discrimination among the nations of his day.
 - We are to boldly condemn evil just as those did who were before us.
2. It is never popular to stand on God's Word.
 - Speak God's Word to the world leaders.

- Speak God's Word to our own government.
- Speak God's Word to our politicians.
- Speak God's Word telling that sex outside marriage is wrong.
- Speak God's Word telling that homosexuality is wrong.
- Speak God's Word telling married couples to be faithful to each other.
- Speak God's Word telling that it is wrong to kill unborn babies.
- If Christians stand up and speak God's Word, they will be unpopular but they will be honoring those who have gone before who gave themselves for God's Word.

III. WE MUST ALSO LOVE THE KIND OF PEOPLE THEY LOVED

1. Whenever a Christian turns away from ordinary people, God will turn away from that Christian.
2. Some churches are nothing more than entertainment centers with a steeple.
 - Many churches brag about their big "special" love offerings for those across the seas, but don't do anything to help their neighborhoods.
3. In God's eyes, there is only one kind of people and they are the ones Jesus died for.
4. Look at your own church family. What kind of people do you see?
5. The church must love the lost, the least, and the last.

IV. WE MUST ALSO SHOW COURAGE AS THEY SHOWED COURAGE

1. God's Word says that angels rejoice whenever a lost soul is saved. Wouldn't it be pleasing also to all those in heaven if they could see us taking the same stands that they took?
 - Joseph ran from sexual immorality.
 - Noah preached of coming judgment.
 - Stephen was rejected and stoned for his witness of Jesus.
 - John the Baptist stood firm against the nation's leader's immorality.
 - Hundreds of thousands have been martyred - burnt, beheaded, eaten by animals, crucified, jabbed to death with wooden spears/stakes, boiled in oil, buried alive, pulled apart by horses, eyes gouged out, starved to death, run through with spears and swords, drowned and countless other ways to torture and humiliate.
 - Jesus held his nail pierced hands up for His disciples to see and pointed to His sword pierced side for them to feel.
 - Have you anything to show for your standing up and out for Jesus?

CONCLUSION:

1. We must remind ourselves that we have a Gospel to share, not a society to please.
2. We have a Christ to follow, not to ignore or be ashamed of.
3. We have had a "torch" passed on to us by those believers before us, now we must carry it on as they did.
4. If Jesus' return is delayed and we move on into eternity, what will be said of us by those who gave so much of themselves for Jesus?
5. We must preach/teach what has been passed on to us. We must hate what has been passed on to us. We must love the kind of people that have been passed on to us. We must have the same kind of courage that has been passed on to us.
6. God has not changed. His World has not changed. His Word has not changed. People have not changed. Our responsibility as His Children has not changed.
7. May it be said someday in heaven that those of.....Church also lived and died in such a way that they brought honor to Jesus and those before Him.
8. How do others judge you? How do you think God is judging you? How do you stand in your own eyes compared to those Christians who lived before you?
9. Make whatever changes you need to make to become one who stands up and speaks out for Jesus.
10. Make sure that all those who sacrificed so much for you to have eternal life didn't do it all for nothing.