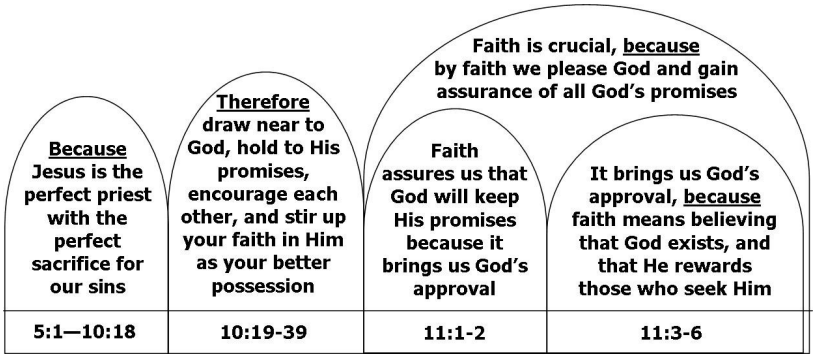
<u>The Letter To The Hebrews</u>
The Only Way To Please God
Hebrews 11:3-6

<u>Introduction</u>

There's one thing we must have without which it is impossible to please God.
We can see that that is in Hebrews 11.
But first, here's an overview of what the author's train of thought –-



Heb 11:1-2 shows why it's so important to have faith in God. So next the author helps us with—

<u>Where does faith start</u>? (v.3)

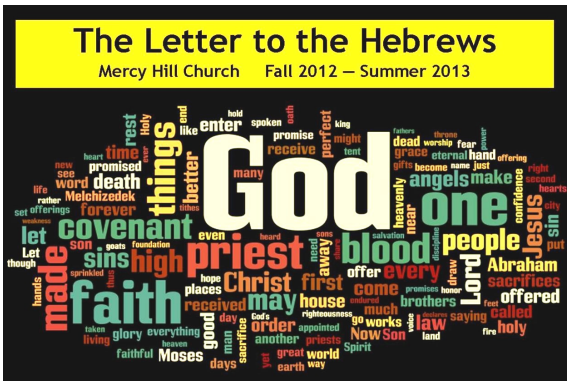
Faith starts by understanding that the universe was created by God.
Rom 1:18-21 shows that sin has blinded us so we won't see all the evidence of God around us.
But in great mercy, through Christ, God changes our hearts and gives us faith.
Faith enables us to see the crystal-clear evidence all around us for God as Creator.
So faith starts by believing that there is a God.

<u>What difference does it make that God exists</u>? (v.4)

Able gave God the best of all his earthly possession (Gen 4:3-4).
The reason he did this is found in Heb 11:6 — it's because he knew God would reward him.
What reward does God give us? Through Christ we are forgiven so we can know God.
Knowing God brings us infinitely more joy than anything else.
It's not that faith earns this reward; it's that through Christ God mercifully gives us this reward.

<u>How valuable is God's reward if death can take it away</u>? (v.5)

Even though Enoch had sinned against God, Jesus paid for his sins and broke the power of death.
So because of Enoch's faith, God mercifully rewarded him by sparing him from death and taking directly to heaven.
So God's reward is both infinitely better than anything else—and it lasts forever.



<u>How can we please God</u>?

By believing that He is, and that He will reward us.
So trust Christ, and start seeking God's reward.
If you are trusting Christ, keep seeking God's reward.
Tell someone else this amazing news.

HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

Do you ever wonder if there really is a God? How do you deal with that? How does it help to look at the design found in the universe?

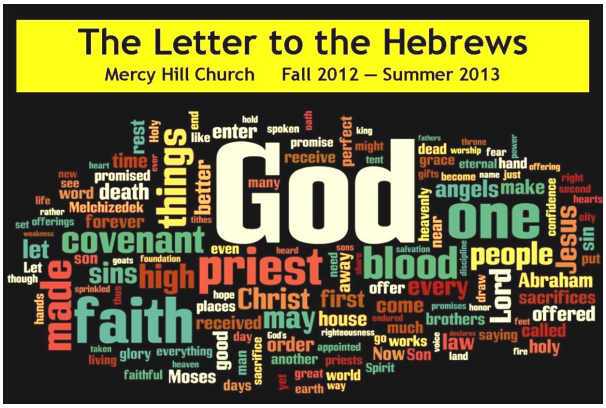
Is your life lived more like Cain (any old gift to God will do) or like Abel (giving God your very best)? Are you persuaded that God will reward you with Himself — and that He is infinitely more satisfying than anything the world offers? Why or why not? (Be honest!)

How does it affect you to hear that Enoch did not die? Can you see how important it is to know that death is not the end? How does that motivate you to seek God?

What is your main motivation for obeying God?

Based on v.6, how important is it that we be motivated by the reward of more of God? What is your main motivation for obedience?

What are some ways you could more diligently seek God's reward?

With whom can you share the amazing news that God wants to give you the all-satisfying joy of knowing Him through Christ? When can you tell them?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.