Great Men - Part 1

In the last couple of months we have written several articles about the heroes of the faith in Hebrews eleven. This study has been challenging because God took all types of individuals and performed His work through them. These weren't perfect individuals, but men and women who had a mind to serve God. They all had to choose what they would do, and they all did the right thing.

In Hebrews twelve we are faced with a great challenge. Scripture tells us, "(1) Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, (2) Looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of



JUST A THOUGHT
Rev. Tom Mansbarger



the throne of God."

Chapter twelve is really a continuation of chapter eleven. It tells us "wherefore," which means because of what we have already heard and learned, now we must do this. The Scripture talks about a "cloud of witnesses." These witnesses are some who have gone on before us and some who are still here. These witnesses represent two things. One, the witness of greatness. They all rose way beyond their natural ability to heights they had never dreamed

of because God was working through them. Have you ever had the experience of being around great individuals? Two, the witness of goodness is also represented in each of these giants of the faith.

If we were to take a poll as to what constitutes greatness, we would get a variety of good answers because we all see things differently. Even though we all see differently, we all know when we are in the presence of greatness. Let's look at some principles that represent greatness:

- 1. A great man or woman is one who stands out head and shoulders above the rest. When they enter the room it is easy to see they are different.
- 2. A great witness is one that causes others to follow his lead. There are lots of people who want to believe they are leaders, but in reality, no one is following them. There is something special instilled in a leader, a rare

quality that makes others follow.

Hebrews 12: 1,2

- 3. A great leader is one where others accept their teaching. When Jesus began His earthly ministry, the people were amazed at His teaching. He provided a message of a better life now and a hope of a better life after death, everlasting life. To follow the teaching of others, the message must be believable, and Jesus
- 4. A great leader is one whom followers admire their course or vision. Great leaders are visionaries, and they cause others to be.

did just that.

We have just scratched the surface on the subject of great people who have moved the Gospel along. Next week we will bring part 2 of this message.

The Rev. Tom Mansbarger is senior pastor at Grace Community Church. He offers free counseling. Reach him at 765-517-1187 or tom@graceccmarion.org.

Puzzle answers







