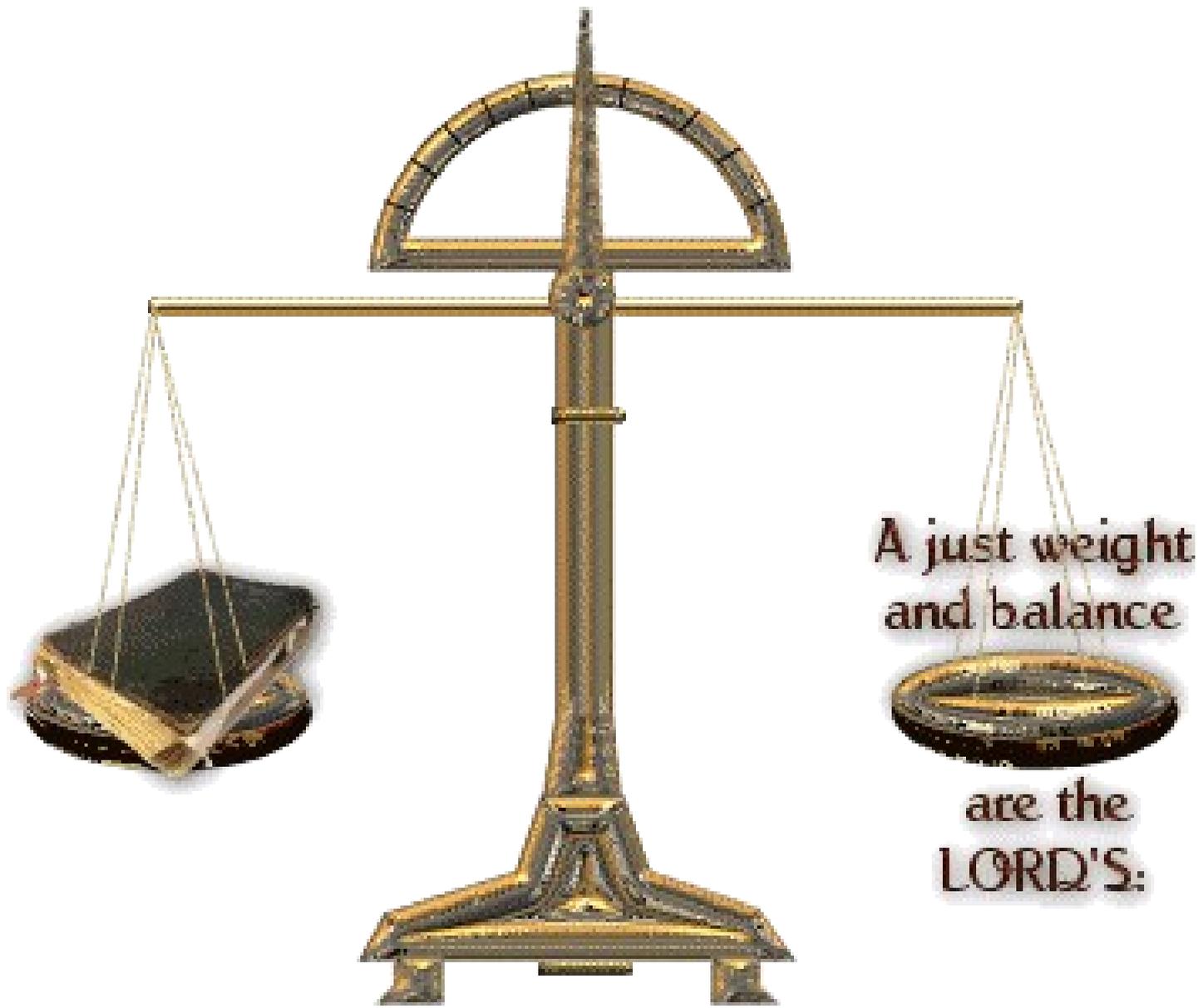


- Church Web Site

www.tryonchurchofchrist.com

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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **Hebrews 11:1**

Now faith

***is the substance
of things hoped for,
the evidence of
things not seen.***

- Faith is what makes the Christian different from the non-Christian.
- Henry David Thoreau, once said,
"If I seem to walk out of step with others, it is because I am listening to another drum beat."
 - That is faith:
 - Walking to another drum beat.

- **Faith,**

is greatly misunderstood
and there are many
peculiar ideas
of what it is.

- It might help to show
what faith is not:

- Faith
is not
positive thinking.

- Faith
is not
a hunch.

- Faith
is not
a feeling of optimism.

- Faith is

none

of these things,

though all of them
have been identified
as faith.

- What is faith?

- The first **seven verses** of this wonderful chapter **answer that question,**
- And the remainder of the chapter **tells us how it works.**

- The author is not discussing faith in general, but faith in God.
- And it is essential that we know what it is.

- In the first **seven verses:**

There is

a definition

in which we see

the ingredients of faith.

- This, by the way,
is the only definition
of faith
in the Bible.

- The definition is followed by a deduction, in which we have revealed the significance of faith.
 - Then there is a demonstration, in which we see illustrations of faith.

- The **1st, 2nd & 6th** verses

taken together,
help define faith for us.

- Here we see the **ingredients of faith:**

- **Hebrews 11:1-2** RSV

- *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*
- *For by it the men of old received divine approval.*

- **Hebrews 11:6** RSV
- ***And without faith***
 - ***it is impossible to please God.***
- ***For whoever would draw near to God***
 - ***must believe that he exists***
 - ***and that he rewards those***
 - ***who seek him.***

- Note how those verses indicate that faith begins with hope.
- Faith commences with "things hoped for,"
 - That is, it starts with a sense of discontent.

- You can never
have much faith
unless you are
dissatisfied
with the way
you are now,
and are longing for
something better.

- **If you do not
feel dissatisfied**

with the way you are,
it will be impossible
for you to exercise
any faith.

- That is why,
all through the Bible,
the great enemy of faith
is a complacent spirit,
an attitude of
self-satisfaction,
staying with the
status quo.

- But if you are **dissatisfied,**
- If you are looking for **something better,**
- If you are not content to be merely **eating, sleeping,**
and amusing yourself,
and eventually dying,
then you are in a position to exercise faith.

- There are many who would like to have faith, but are never ready for it, because they are not dissatisfied.

- They must demand of life more than the mere mechanics of living.
- You want more, do you not?
 - You are looking for something better.

- Verse 6 puts it,
"he who would
draw near to God."

- That is looking for more of life
than is visible on the surface.

- To find something
to deepen life,

- That is the first step of faith.

- Then comes
**"the conviction of things
not seen"**

- Not only a desire
for something better,
- But an awareness of
something else:
 - That is faith.

- It means being aware that we are surrounded by an invisible spirit kingdom,
 - That which is seen is not the whole explanation of life.

- There are realities which cannot be seen, weighed, measured, analyzed, or touched,
- And yet which are as real and as vital as anything we can see.

- In fact they are more real because they are the explanation of the things which can be seen.

- This is so beautifully seen
in the words and teachings
of our Lord Jesus.
 - He speaks of
God the Father
as though he were
standing right there,
invisible and yet present.

- He does not see the universe as an impersonal machine, grinding and clanking along, as science so frequently does,

- But he sees it as an invisible, but very real, spiritual kingdom.

- **Verse 6 says the same:**
"He that comes to God must believe that he is, that God exists."
- There are some who say,
"That's the hard part"
 - **No**, it is not.

- The easiest thing
in the world to do
is to believe that
God exists.
- It requires effort
to disbelieve;
- It requires no effort
to believe.

- The interesting thing is that everyone in the world, without exception, starts out believing God exists.

- It is only by careless training the mind that one come to the place of declaring God does not exist.

- **Light from God**
is streaming in
on every side
- And all we need to do
is open our eyes
to see it
and know that
God is there.

- That is why children have no problem with this.
- The concept of God ought to be one of the most difficult ideas for children to grasp, since God cannot be seen.
- But the amazing thing is, children have no difficulty at all in believing that God exists.

- It requires great effort to train the mind **to reject this evidence.**
- Julian Huxley's book, ***Religion Without Revelation*** goes to great lengths to explain away the evidence for the existence of God, and to find other explanations for it.
- It is only those minds **that have deliberately trained themselves** that can claim to be atheistic.

- Even then,
if they are not careful,
- They may suddenly refer to a belief in God,
 - As the man who on one occasion exclaimed,
- "I'm an atheist, thank God!"

- There is also a third ingredient of faith,

- "*the assurance of things hoped for.*"

- Faith is the assurance that the things you are longing to have,

- The better man or woman you would like to be,

- Will be achieved by acting on the revelation of the things unseen.

- Faith is the eye of the heart.
- By faith we see deep down beneath the face of things.
 - By faith we struggle against all odds to be able to see the unseen.

- By faith we believe
His peace
will give us peace.
- By faith we believe
His light
will light our pathway.
- By faith we believe
His love
will enable us
to love
and be loving.

- Let us put it all together now.

- It begins with

- a longing

- to be something better,

- An awareness that within the universe there is something else,

- And that something has revealed itself.

- As we act
on that revelation
we shall achieve
the things
hoped for,
the something better.

- That is the story of the whole eleventh chapter of Hebrews
 - It is the story of faith.

- ***Without that faith it is impossible to please God.***

- **Verse 3**

introduces us to
a very amazing deduction
which reveals something
of the significance of faith,
the implications of it:

- ***By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear. (Hebrews 11:3 RSV)***

- This verse says that we can never explain the things which are seen till we come to grips with the things that are unseen.

- A former President of the Stanford Research Institute said:
- Through the years I have struggled to gain a greater understanding of electricity and magnetism....
 - Even now, I cannot give a lucid definition of electricity or magnetism, except to say that they are invisible forces which have real manifestations.

- That brings us to a very important deduction about faith.
- That faith puts us immediately in touch with reality.
 - That is the glory of it.

- Faith is a way of piercing the illusions of the world that tend to distract us and shows us things as they really are.
- Faith is dealing with facts.
- Faith opens our eyes to reality.

- **Science**

cannot tell me
how human history
is going to end,
but by faith

I know.

- **Science**
cannot tell
why we
act the way we do.
- But by faith
we can know.

- **Science**

cannot tell me

what lies

beyond

the door of death.

- To scientists death is an enigma, a mystery,
- But to the Christian it is no mystery.

- This is why
faith
pleases God,
- Because it comes
to grips
with reality.
- God deals only
with truth.

- His word
ask us to
have faith.
- His word
warns us
that it will
not be an easy path
but it will be
the sure one.

- Now let us look at the three demonstrations to illustrate faith.

- **#1** Able

- **#2** Enoch

- **#3** Noah

- **# 1 Able**

- Here are the world's first brothers, **Abel** and **Cain**,
- They enjoyed what we call **"the simple life,"**
 - But they longed for **something better,**
they hungered after God.

- For no matter how good life is, it is never good enough if you do not have God.
- Man is never satisfied without him, and these boys hungered for God.

• Cain

chose to

believe a lie,

• A lie that is

still very evident today,

that

**"one way is as
good as another."**

- Cain
took the
easiest way
and was rejected.
- That never works
in anything:
nature, life,
or with God.

- Abel

believed God
and discovered

a great truth,

- Faith

is required

to please God.

- That is what

a blood sacrifice

teaches.

- There must be a life laid down before one can have the life of God, that is the point.
 - Because Abel learned that truth
 - He still speaks to us today.
- Are you listening?

- Then there is Enoch.

- Enoch was the

- seventh from Adam.

- *By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had taken him.*

- *Now before he was taken he was attested as having pleased God.*

- **(Hebrews 11:5 RSV)**

- The divine record tells us he walked with God.
- When he did that he discovered a great reality.
 - He found a fellowship that death could not interrupt.

- He became forever a picture of what death is to the Christian
 - A shadow, an incident, hardly worth mentioning.
 - That is the reality that Enoch discovered by faith.

- Then there is Noah.
- *Faith led Noah to listen when God warned him about the things in the future that he could not see.*
- *He obeyed God and built a ship to save his family.*
- *Through faith Noah condemned the world and received God's approval that comes through faith.*

(Hebrews 11:7 GW)

- Faith is believing
there is another dimension to life
other than those which can be
touched, tasted, seen or felt.
- There is more to life
than meets the eye.
- There is the
invisible spiritual kingdom
of God.
- All the ultimate answers of life
lie in that kingdom.

- The world
does not understand
people of faith.
- They fail to see
that we are in touch
with things
as they really are.
- That we walk in that
unseen power.
 - That is the
glory of faith.

- **Hebrews 11:1**

***Now faith
is the substance***

of things

hoped for,

- ***the evidence***

of things

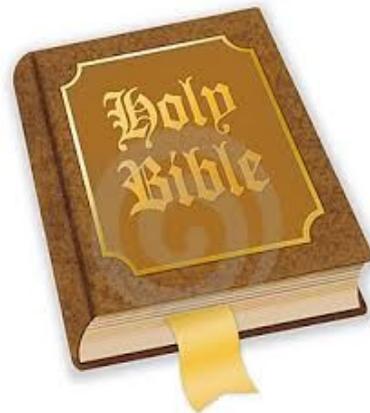
not seen.

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 11-27-22 Tryon, NC

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