

Enduring As the Saints

Sermon Outline (Revelation 7:9-17, Hebrews 12:1-2)

- I. Heroes of our faith have set an example for us to follow.
 - A. What's your idea of what heaven will be like? Thrills? Beauty?
 - B. In heaven people of every nation/tribe/language praising God
 1. some famous-sports/music/movie stars, world leaders, etc.
 2. most-common/humble folks serving God in obscurity.
 3. those who've endured persecution are comforted by God
 4. those who've brought deliverance/inspired others such as William Wilberforce, John Patton and Michi Kawaii.
 - C. Wilberforce, a member of British Parliament, introduced 12 measures to eradicate British slave trade on 5/12/1789. Thus began decades of fierce spiritual effort and struggle.
 1. John Newton, a former slave trader, was his mentor.
 2. In 1791 John Wesley wrote him "Go on, in the name of God...may God continue to guide and strengthen you."
 3. Received strength from a Bible study/prayer group
 4. On his death bed 7/25/1833 he heard of anti-slavery support
Emancipation Act went into effect 7/31/1834, after 45 yrs!
 - D. John Paton, born 1824 in Scotland, called as a missionary to New Hebrides islands, S. Pacific., to Tanna island for 4 yrs.
 1. Wife and son died, driven out due to evil Euro traders. For 3 years he raised funds/prayers/others for missionary cause.
 2. 1865 back w/7 new missionaries & new wife to Aniwa Isle w/long lasting results. Recruited more funds/missionaries.
 3. 1897-complete 1st Aniwan NT. 3 yrs later hailed as hero.
 4. Died 1/28/1907, having persevered with joy.
 - E. Michi Kawaii, born 1877 in Japan, father converted to Christ from Shintoism, encouraged her Christian Ed. She converted.
 1. To America-studied at Bryn Mawr College. Back to Japan
In 1904-a prominent Christian, YWCA-center for reform
 2. 1929 founded Keisen Jogaku-en HS/JHS/college/university
 3. During WWII-successful in opening horticulture dept JC.
 4. 3 pillars of Keisen-Christianity/gardening/internationality
 5. I shared the gospel when I taught there & saw her influence.
- II. We are called to run, with perseverance, the race set before us
 - A. As did Heb. 12-cloud of witnesses & Rev 7 white robed saints
 - B. Consider who're real heroes; emulate Christ's/their endurance
 - C. Let us have that same perseverance/endurance in our faith!