

OUR HERITAGE OF PRESBYTERIANISM

I have been given the subject "Our Heritage of Presbyterianism and how could I discuss a subject like that without ^{first} reading from Hebrews 11. We will start with Hebrews 11, verse 32 and read into the 1st verse and a half of the next chapter, Hebrews 11:32 follows: "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without ~~xx~~ us should not be made perfect. 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, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith."

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So often/in these days, as apostasy is spreading, and in many an area where formerly there were many Christians, ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{a person} develop, people turn away from the faith, unbelief comes in and one feels almost as if he is the only one left; he feels alone. How much of a help it is to realize our heritage, to realize that we are in a godly succession, a succession that goes back a long ways. Presbyterianism is simply mainline Christianity. There is no view which Presbyterianism holds on any doctrine which it does not hold in common with ~~xxx~~ a number of other denominations. It is not a sect, it is not a peculiar group holding some special idea that is not widely held within the Chris-